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STATISTICS
- Lettermen and Starters Lost and Returning
- Individual Leaders

1978 Power Action Points

Power Action Points Table

Dallas Cowboys	142	62	45	5	3
Washington Redskins	139	59	44	4	3

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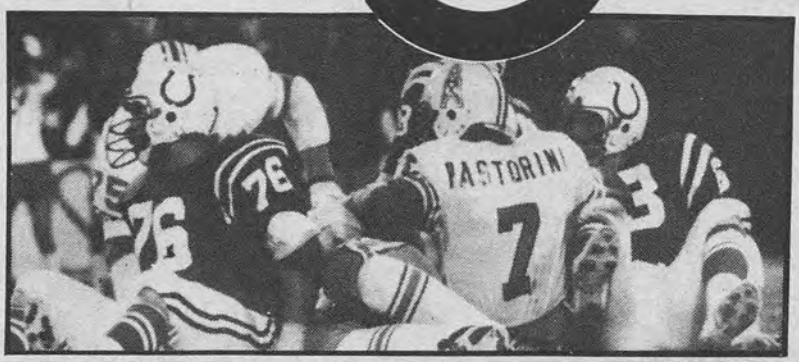
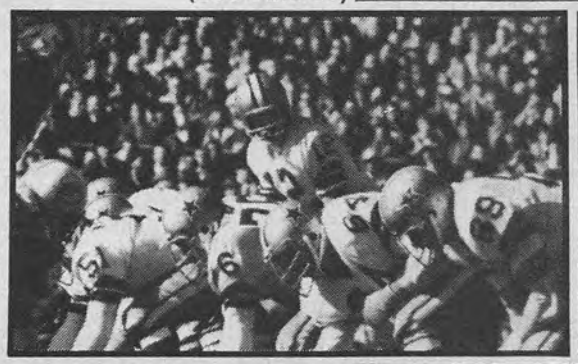


Rating The AFC
(See Page 11)

Rating The NFC
(See Pate 57)



	PR	OR	DR	WEF
Air Force	70	14	3	2
Alabama	124	55	28	5
Appalachian State	60	18	2	2
Arizona	83	35	10	

Power Action Points
(See Page 6)

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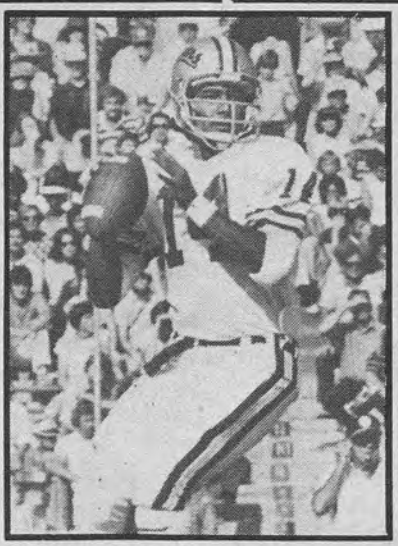

College Coverage
(See Page 100)

COLLEGE TEAMS	OPENING 19 RATING	LAST YEAR'S FINAL RATIN	CURRENT RATING
AIR FORCE	70	73	
ALABAMA	124	124	
APPALACHIAN ST.	60	60	

Power Ratings
(See Page 110)

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Introducing . . .

Power Action Points

Power Action Points is a unique concept in football handicapping. First developed in 1975 as an aid for measuring the power potential of a team, it evaluates the team as a whole -. its offensive rating, defensive rating, "winning edge factor," and home field advantage. It is a concept that has proven highly successful during the past few football seasons.

One of the particularly unique features of the Power Action Points system is that it must constantly be revised. Even though a high degree of accuracy may have been achieved last year in rating the various college and professional teams, all factors must be reconsidered for the coming season. As a result, the FOOTBALL ACTION staff has revised Power Action Points so that an even greater degree of accuracy can be achieved in 1978. Many long, painstaking hours were devoted to reviewing past team records -. both at home and away, seasonal and against the pointspread; and changes in player and coaching personnel, in both the collegiate and professional ranks. All of the above considerations were thoroughly analyzed so that the numerical values assigned for each team's various strengths would more accurately reflect each team's defensive and offensive potential. In addition, each team's 1977 schedule was scrutinized and conference strengths were considered to that the "wear and tear" factor on a team through the course of the 1977 season could be projected.

In order to provide the fullest picture of those influences and considerations that can determine the outcome of a game, FOOTBALL ACTION'S Power Action Points goes beyond offensife and defensive strengths. It includes a specially calculated Winning Edge Factor and Home Field Advantage for each professional and major college team. Through its years of experience, FOOTBALL ACTION has come to the realization that certain college and professional teams are perennial winners regardless of player turnovers. Sometimes this winning edge is due to a coach, or it could be the result of recruiting prowess (in the case of many colleges) or drafting and trading genius (as is often the case with top professional teams). But whatever the reason for its existence, there is little doubt that many teams have more going for them each year and in every game than just accomplished personnel. The Winning Edge Factor assigned to every team in Power Action Points represents a numerical value which takes each team's "winning edge" into account, and helps to simplify yet another variable that must be considered if accurate handicapping is to be achieved.

Almost every college and professional footbal team enjoys some advantage when playing on its home field. But, again, this "edge" differs from team to team, depending upon the tradition of football, fan support, winning record, etc. Consequently, Power Action Points assigns a different home field advantage to every team based upon the importance that the home field advantage has had on a team's performance in the past.

Power Action Points does not boast 100% accuracy, no system or chart can predict with absolute certainty what the final score of each football contest -.college or pro-. will be. However PAP is one of the most accurate systems on the market today for the simple reason that it takes into account as many different game-.determining variables as possible into consideration. These charts do more than just predict a given outcome. The football fan can actually use these ratings to help predict the complexion of a particular contest because these ratings are indications of approximate differences between and among all the pertinent strengths of every team.

All these unique features have been built into Power Action Points, a system which provides its user with an instant analysis of the breakdown of every team's strengths and weaknesses.

USING POWER ACTION POINTS
For Pro and College Football

Power Action Points for college football is slightly different than those for professional football due to smaller power ratings and a tendency for more drastic changes than the professional power ratings.

There are five ratings for each team in the Power Action Points Table:

Power Rating (PR)	Winning Edge Factor (WEF)
Offensive Rating (OR)	Home Team Rating (HT)
Defensive Rating (DR)	

The steps in using the Power Action Points system are as follows:

1. An approximation of the probably pointspread of the game can be determined by finding the difference between the two power ratings.

Subtract the Power Rating of the lower rated team from the higher rated team to find the estimated pointspread.

EXAMPLE:
Notre Dame Power Rating 124
Texas Power Rating 121
Notre Dame would be favored to win by 3 points.

2. An estimated score for the Notre Dame-Texas game can be figured by subtracting the Defensive Rating of the given team from the Offensive Rating of its opponent.*

EXAMPLE:
Notre Dame Offensive Power Rating 58
Texas Defensive Power Rating 26
Notre Dame to score 32 points

Texas Offensive Power Rating 54
Notre Dame Defensive Power rating 30
Texas to score 24 points

3. Next, subtract the higher Winning Edge Factor from the lower and add the difference to the score of the team with the higher WEF.

EXAMPLE:
Notre Dame Winning Edge Factor 5
Texas Winning Edge Factor 5

Since both teams have identical WEF's, there are no points added to either score so the predicted final score would be: Notre Dame 32, Texas 24.

If, however, Texas had a WEF of 6, then they would have had a 1 point Winning Edge Factor and that point would have been added to their final score making it Notre Dame 32, Texas 25.

4. If the game is not played on a neutral field, then Home Team points should be added to the score of the host club.

EXAMPLE:
If Notre Dame is the home team, the projected final score would be: Notre Dame 36, Texas 24.
If Texas is the home team, the projected final score would be Notre Dame 32, Texas 28.

5. It should be noted that these Power Action Points represent ratings that apply to teams at the beginning of the season. They are updated every week during the regular football season in Power Action Points' weekly report.

*Please note that in some cases, where a weak offensive team is playing a strong defensive team, a minus score will result. In such a case, add the minus score to the opponent's score and leave the weak offensive team at zero.

EXAMPLE:
Texas Offensive Rating 54
Northwestern Defensive Rating 7
Texas' Final Score 47

Northwestern Offensive Rating 19
Texas Defensive Rating 26
Northwestern's Final Score . . . . . -7

Final Score of the game: Texas 54, Northwestern 0.

Power Action Points Table

-FOR NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE-

NATIONAL CONFERENCE	PR	OR	DR	WEF	HT
Maximum Ratings	148	67	49	5	3
Eastern Division					
Dallas Cowboys	148	67	47	5	3
Washington Redskins	139	56	44	4	3
St. Louis Cardinals	135	60	34	3	2
New York Giants	129	46	44	3	2
Philadelphia Eagles	133	46	41	3	3
Central Division					
Minnesota Vikings	142	56	44	5	3
Green Bay Packers	127	42	40	3	3
Detroit Lions	133	51	40	3	3
Chicago Bears	139	61	42	4	3
Tampa Bay	124	39	49	3	2
Western Division					
Los Angeles Rams	145	65	45	4	3
San Francisco 49ers	135	58	42	4	3
New Orleans Saints	124	46	28	3	3
Atlanta Falcons	133	40	45	3	3

AMERICAN CONFERENCE	PR	OR	DR	WEF	HT
Maximum Ratings	148	67	49	5	3
Eastern Division					
Miami Dolphins	146	66	45	5	3
Baltimore Colts	146	67	44	4	3
Buffalo Bills	127	46	30	3	2
New York Jets	129	49	31	3	3
New England Patriots	146	65	46	5	3
Central Division					
Pittsburgh Steelers	146	64	47	5	3
Houston Oilers	142	62	46	4	3
Cincinnati Bengals	141	65	42	4	3
Cleveland Browns	135	57	40	3	3
Western Division					
Oakland Raiders	147	67	44	5	3
Denver Broncos	147	64	47	5	3
San Diego Chargers	139	59	41	4	3
Kansas City Chiefs	129	55	29	3	3
Seattle	128	54	29	3	2

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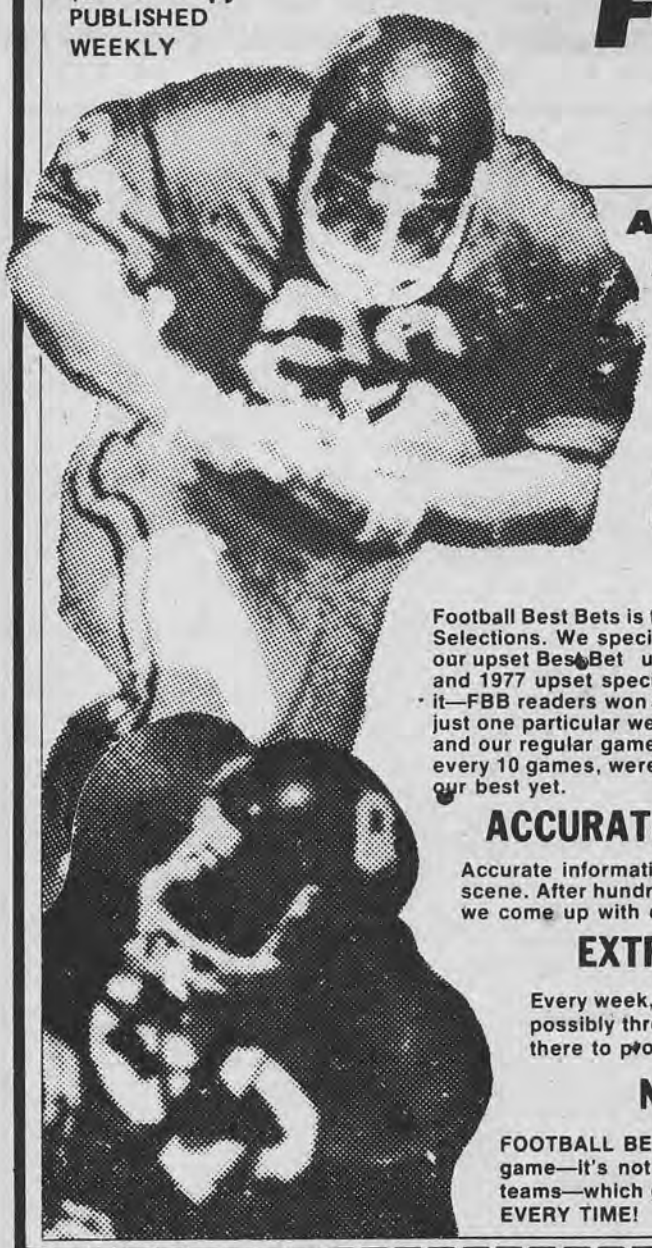

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1977 NFL TEAM STATS

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

OFFENSE

	Balt.	Buff.	Cin.	Clev.	Den.	Hou.	K.C.	Mia.	N.E.	N.Y.J.	Oak.	Pitt.	S.D.	Sea.
First Downs	269	246	248	271	223	228	228	267	247	195	305	266	235	251
Rushing	111	93	110	119	101	112	95	143	132	83	156	122	93	116
Passing	136	141	112	119	107	91	110	107	101	96	125	124	121	116
Penalty	22	12	26	33	15	25	23	17	14	16	24	20	21	19
Rushes	566	450	488	510	523	509	456	519	603	437	681	581	488	461
Net Yds. Gained	2123	1861	1861	2200	2043	1989	1843	2366	2303	1618	2627	2258	1761	1964
Avg. Gain	3.8	4.1	3.8	4.3	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.6	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.6	4.3
Avg. Yds. per Game	151.6	132.9	132.9	157.1	145.9	142.1	131.6	169.0	164.5	115.6	187.6	161.3	125.8	140.3
Passes Attempted	395	458	385	377	313	347	374	311	305	360	324	341	369	387
Completed	224	221	192	208	163	181	190	182	160	170	184	173	206	175
% Completed	56.7	48.3	49.9	55.2	52.1	52.2	50.8	58.5	52.5	47.2	56.8	50.7	55.8	45.2
Total Yds. Gained	2686	2803	2550	2374	2265	2107	2514	2264	2162	2286	2338	2632	2442	2459
Passer Tackled	26	36	31	24	50	23	48	36	14	35	25	27	24	21
Yds. Lost	221	273	217	199	402	232	421	303	155	284	229	245	198	131
Net Yds. Gained	2465	2530	2333	2175	1863	1875	2093	1961	2007	2002	2109	2387	2244	2328
Avg. Yds. per Game	176.1	180.7	166.6	155.4	133.1	133.9	149.5	140.1	143.4	143.0	150.6	170.5	160.3	166.3
Net Yds. per Pass Play	5.86	5.12	5.61	5.42	5.13	5.07	4.96	5.65	6.29	5.07	6.04	6.49	5.71	5.71
Yds. Gained per Comp.	11.99	12.68	13.28	11.41	13.90	11.64	13.23	12.44	13.51	13.45	12.71	15.21	11.85	14.05
Combined Net Yds. Gained	4588	4391	4194	4375	3906	3864	3936	4327	4310	3620	4736	4645	4005	4292
% Total Yds., Rushing	46.27	42.38	44.37	50.29	52.30	51.48	46.82	54.68	53.43	44.70	55.47	48.61	43.97	45.76
% Total Yds., Passing	53.73	57.62	55.63	49.71	47.70	48.52	53.18	45.32	46.57	55.30	44.53	51.39	56.03	54.24
Avg. Yds. per Game	327.7	313.6	299.6	312.5	279.0	276.0	281.1	309.1	307.9	258.6	338.3	331.8	286.1	306.6
Ball Control Plays	987	944	904	911	886	879	878	866	922	832	1030	949	881	869
Avg. Yds. per Play	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.8	4.4	4.4	4.5	5.0	4.7	4.4	4.6	4.9	4.5	4.9
Had Intercepted	12	24	16	31	12	21	26	14	21	26	24	21	20	32
Yds. Opp. Returned	298	326	192	351	172	253	390	238	279	420	373	299	109	592
Ret. by Opp. for TD	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	2	0	2	1	0	3
Punts	84	83	70	62	91	79	89	58	68	76	59	73	73	64
Yds. Punted	3142	3229	2890	2419	3563	3030	3510	2139	2354	2855	2552	2651	2707	2430
Avg. Yds. per Punt	37.4	38.9	41.3	39.0	39.2	38.4	39.4	36.9	34.6	37.6	43.3	36.3	37.1	38.0
Punt Returns	42	32	41	38	58	36	36	40	43	38	37	46	46	32
Yds. Returned	323	380	328	322	712	539	236	315	429	480	373	389	521	217
Avg. Yds. per Return	7.7	11.9	8.0	8.5	12.3	15.0	6.6	7.9	10.0	12.6	10.1	8.5	11.3	6.8
Returned for TD	0	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Kickoff Returns	48	60	46	53	34	46	63	38	39	61	49	45	39	71
Yds. Returned	912	1238	886	1075	732	1056	1284	1011	1051	1374	909	995	734	1502
Avg. Yds. per Return	19.0	20.6	19.3	20.3	21.5	23.0	20.4	26.6	26.9	22.5	18.6	22.1	18.8	21.2
Returned for TD	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
Penalties	77	87	89	125	91	106	82	59	112	62	89	122	97	76
Yds. Penalized	620	866	859	1046	883	835	706	432	931	508	747	973	813	656
Fumbles	24	36	37	34	28	30	33	22	28	24	22	41	29	27
Lost	14	20	16	22	15	17	21	13	15	14	16	28	11	14
Out of Bounds	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	2	2	3
Own Rec. for TD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Opp. Rec. By	17	12	23	16	14	28	23	18	10	17	21	13	10	11
Opp. Rec. for TD	1	1	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Total Points Scored	295	160	238	269	274	299	225	313	278	191	351	283	222	282
Total TDs	35	19	26	31	34	36	29	41	33	21	42	37	25	37
TDs Rushing	17	3	10	9	16	15	13	18	13	6	20	20	10	12
TDs Passing	17	12	12	19	15	14	11	22	17	14	21	17	11	23
TDs on Ret. and Rec.	1	4	4	3	3	7	5	1	3	1	1	0	4	2
Extra Points	32	17	25	30	31	29	27	37	33	18	39	34	21	33
Safeties	1	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Field Goals Made	17	9	19	17	13	16	8	10	15	15	20	9	17	9
Field Goals Attempted	26	17	27	23	19	25	18	22	21	25	28	14	23	18
% Successful	65.4	52.9	70.4	73.9	68.4	64.0	44.4	45.5	71.4	60.0	71.4	64.3	73.9	50.0

Pats to Recapture Playoff Spirit of '76

AFC EAST

1978 PREDICTED FINISH

FINAL 1977 NFL TEAM STANDINGS

	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Op
Baltimore	10	4	0	.714	295	221
Miami	10	4	0	.714	313	197
New England	9	5	0	.643	278	217
N.Y. Jets	3	11	0	.214	191	300
Buffalo	3	11	0	.214	160	313

AFC Playoffs

Oakland 37, Baltimore 31
Denver 34, Pittsburgh 21

If Chuck Fairbanks can satisfy the demands of his pro-bowl linemen, Leon Gray and John Hannah, and if Andy Johnson recovers completely from his knee surgery, then the Patriots will edge out Miami and Baltimore for divisional honors.

The Dolphins, however, will not succumb easily and the Colts, if fully recovered from an assortment of injuries, could well force the league to rewrite its post-season requirements.

Buffalo figures to be improved because of Chuck Knox' arrival while the Jets continue to respond to the leadership of Walt Michaels.

PLAYER PERSONNEL UPDATE

PATRIOTS: Excuse the expression, but New England could well afford to stand 'Pat' in terms of off-season trading activity because Fairbanks and Bucko Kilroy have this club to the point where the Patriots can utilize the draft as a refurbishing tool rather than an implement for wholesale rebuilding. The Patriots added to the depth of their already imposing offensive line—probably to guard against further dissatisfaction on the part of Hannah and Gray—with the first round selection of Alabama's Bob Cryder, an aggressive run blocker whom Fairbanks compared to Hannah in terms of ultimate potential. And, when rumors concerning a supposed serious knee injury began to circulate prior to the draft, the Patriots found themselves in the unexpected position to steal the services of Matt Cavanaugh (the gutty field general of the Pittsburgh Panthers, noted for his ability to make things happen,) in the second round. Number three pick Carlos Pennywell, gifted with the same kind of pass catching talent that has made Sammy White all-pro, should bolster the depth of the team's track oriented receiving corps.

MIAMI: In dealing for Delvin Williams, Don Shula feels strongly that he has acquired one of the game's most dangerous runners who has proven ability as a blocker and receiver in addition to formidable talent that has produced over 2,000 yards rushing in the past two seasons. Even though the price was stiff (a number one and Fred Solomon as well as Vern Roberson) the Dolphins felt compelled to make the trade. No doubt Shula was most pleased when the Dolphins' turn came in the second round and the name Guy Benjamin was still up on the board. Not having a number one and still managing to come up with someone with the potential of Benjamin is indeed a fortuitous coup. Shula also added some depth for the defensive line with the third round selection of Lyman Smith of Duke. Penn State's clutch receiver, Jimmy Cefalo represented a possible third round steal and insurance against the departure of Solomon. Another excellent pick could be the fourth round selection of Gerald Small, at one time a highly regarded corner back prospect with first round credentials until he suffered through an injury plagued senior season.

COLTS: As they did a year ago, the Colts spent their first round selection rather curiously. Last year's number one pick, Randy Burke had a total of 12 catches in his senior season but flashed first round credentials with a superb post-season performance. This year's top selection, Reese McCall, caught a total of seven passes for run-oriented Auburn and is viewed more as a blocker than a first line receiver. However, the selection of McCall probably means Ray Chester will be wearing another color uniform come the start of training camp. Number two pick Mike Woods is a quality performer who will upgrade club's overall linebacking talent.

BILLS: Buffalo enjoyed potentially fine draft under direction of Knox and Norm Pollom. Running game was strengthened via the first round selection of Terry Miller, the Oklahoma State speedster who was runner-up to Earl Campbell for Heisman honors. Dennis Johnson, considered to be a sure fire number one pick himself before succumbing to knee to knee problems, could be even better than Miller if healthy. Knox stiffened up the defensive capability of the Bills with the dual second round selection of Dee Hardison and Scott Hutchinson, a pair of quick and aggressive pass rushing DEs from North Carolina and Florida.

JETS: Just as they did a year ago, the Jets wound up adding the talents of the best offensive lineman available in the draft to a unit that is rapidly becoming the strength of the team. Chris Ward, the mammoth but quick guard/tackle from Ohio State, should provide an excellent complement to the multi-skilled talents of Marvin Powell. Number two pick Mark Merrill, an active linebacking prospect from Minnesota, was valued by Michaels for his intensity and nose for the ball. Some people felt he might have been a step too low, but when Walt Michaels thinks a kid can play LB in the NFL, who's to argue? Mickey Shuler, the hard-working TE from Penn State, whose blocking also impressed Michaels, was the club's third round choice.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

1978 Schedule		
9/3	WASH.	1:00
9/10	at St. Louis	1:00
9/18	BALT. (Mon.)	9:00
9/24	at Oakland	6:00
10/1	SAN DIEGO	1:00
10/8	PHILA.	1:00
10/15	at Cincinnati	1:00
10/22	MIAMI	1:00
10/29	N.Y. JETS	1:00
11/5	at Buffalo	1:00
11/12	HOUSTON	1:00
11/19	at N.Y. Jets	1:00
11/26	at Baltimore	4:00
12/3	at Dallas	3:00
12/10	BUFFALO	1:00
12/18	at Mia.(Mon.)	9:00

1977 Results		
9/18	K. C. (+12)	21-17
9/25	at Cleve. (+3)*	27-30
10/2	at Jets (+13½)	27-30
10/9	SEATTLE (+20)	31-0
10/16	at S. D. (P'K)	24-20
10/23	BALT. (+2)	17-3
10/30	JETS (+13½)	24-13
11/6	BUFF. (+18)	14-24
11/13	at Miami (+2)	5-17
11/20	at Buff. (+10½)	20-7
11/27	PHILA. (+10)	14-6
12/4	at Atlanta (+5)	16-10
12/11	MIAMI (+3½)	14-10
12/18	at Balt. (-5)	24-30

*Overtime

Imagine how frustrating the winter was for Chuck Fairbanks and his staff, not to mention the Patriot players, management and fans.

After all, wasn't the 1977 season supposed to offer redress for the bitter play-off loss to Oakland that ended the Pats' surge to contention the year before? And, wasn't this the AFC club most likely to dethrone those hated Raiders? Surely the Patriots were a team worth watching.

Of course, but for all the wrong reasons. Instead of kicking-off the regular season with the smoothness and commitment expected a contender, the Patriots ended the summer in disarray. It was but a taste of the adversity which would follow.

First, Andy Johnson, a truly valuable performer whose versatility constitutes a hidden strength of the team's offense, was lost for the season with a wounded knee.

Next came the dual walk-out of the club's finest linemen. This lamentable affair, orchestrated at the insistence of Howard Slusher (right, him again), saw Leon Gray and John Hannah leave the team hours before the final pre-season game and commence what would be a lengthy and morale shredding hold-out.

Unfortunately, the Patriots did not play particularly well, and lost a pair of early decisions to the Browns and the Jets which could very easily have been reversed.

Perhaps that is why most opinion around the league centers on the inescapable fact that the Patriots, themselves, were as much to blame for not making the playoffs as any of the mitigating circumstances which contributed to the anger of everyone concerned with the way the season ended. Such circumstances included the phantom whistle which denied the Pats what would have been a satisfying but meaningless win against the Colts. Such triumph would have been meaningless to the extent that even though the Patriots would have owned a 3-1 mark against both Baltimore and Miami, the complicated rules governing admittance into the playoffs seemingly penalized New England for winning while rewarding the Colts for their dismal handling of a controversial loss to the Lions.

An even more compelling reason for the premature ending of the Pats' playoff hopes could be traced to the team's main offensive weakness. The running game, stripped of the valuable services of Johnson and denied the threat posed by Steve Grogan's disciplined scrambling (which, for reasons unexplained by Fairbanks, disappeared from the Patriot arsenal designed by Red Miller), slipped drastically.

Obviously, it is here where the team must improve the most. Fortunately, most of the talent remains. And, if Gray and Hannah come to camp signed and happy while Johnson and Forte arrive healthy, the team will be well prepared to prove the claim of their most avid supporters that the Patriots were indeed last year's uncrowned champions.

QUARTERBACK: Steve Grogan, after abandoning his scrambling style early in the season, reverted to form over the latter part of the schedule and the Patriot offense profited immensely. Grogan still throws too many (21) interceptions but superb protection is key to club's deep passing attack. Tom Owen, a somewhat proven veteran, is disappointed at lack of playing time.

GRADE B+

RUNNING BACK: Loss of Andy Johnson and failure of Grogan to run as often as in the past hurt the overall effectiveness of the running game. Production dropped from 210 yards per game to 164, and as a result, scoreboard activity dipped dramatically from a total of 376 points to a less impressive figure of 278 in 1977. Sam Cunningham cracked the 1,000 yard level once again, and remains a powerful runner who is also a gifted receiver and an excellent blocker. Don Calhoun lived up to super-sub label. Ike Forte and Horace Ivory, along with a healthy Andy Johnson, provide talented depth.

GRADE A

RECEIVERS: Daryll Stingley's — 39 catches, 657 yards, 16.8 average and 5 TDs — added up to his most productive performance while the addition of Stanley Morgan hyped Pats long range passing attack with some much needed speed. Injury to TE Russ Francis hurt both phases of Patriot attack. When healthy, Francis rivals Dave Casper as the premier player at his position. Don Hasselbeck and Albert Chandler constitute adequate reserve strength inside, but club needs to add to outside depth.

GRADE A

OFFENSIVE LINE: Wasted opportunity and irresponsible hold-out of Gray and Hannah hurt playoff chances early on. Without Gray and Hannah, Steve Grogan was sacked five times in first two games. After their return, the club's pass protection improved immeasurably. In fact, the Patriot pass blocking may have even been more effective in 1977 (14 sacks) than the year before. Bill Lenkatis, Sam Adams and Tom Neville unheralded but effective performers. Pete Brock, Bob McKay, Fred Sturt and Shelby Jordan provide excellent blend of depth.

GRADE A+

DEFENSIVE LINE: Across the final month of play the Patriot pass rush, bulwarked by blitzing LB tactics, recorded an astounding total of 26 sacks, 10 of which came at the expense of the Dolphins and the Colts. Mel Lunsford, Ray Hamilton and Julius Adams comprise superb starting group while Tony McGee (five sacks in one game) Rich Bishop and Greg Boyd offer stern competition.

GRADE A+

LINEBACKERS: The Patriots are blessed with the quickest bunch of linebackers this side of the Rockies. Despite injuries to Steve Zabel and Pete Barnes, this unit was the heart of Patriot 3-4 defense. Sam Hunt is doubly tough to get around or over in the middle, and has great pursuit despite weight problems. Steve Nelson is consistent performer while Pete Barnes has knack for making important plays.

GRADE A-

SECONDARY: Patriots have an abundance of young, speedy defensive backs. Players like Mike Haynes, Tim Fox and Raymond Clayborn (all three are recent first round selections) form nucleus of one of the most talented secondaries in the league. Veteran CB Bob Howard offers experience while Prentice McCray remains underrated but effective SS.

GRADE A

KICKING GAME: Patriots appear to be solid in every area and may have the fastest group of return men in the history of the sport. John Smith remains a dependable kicker with a strong and accurate leg. Mike Patrick is a

consistent punter. Raymond Clayborn led the NFL in kick-off returns with an average of 31.0 and 3 TDs, including a record-setting 104 yard jaunt against the Jets. The club's other rookie speedster, Stanley Morgan, compiled a 13.8 punt return average to place second to Billy Johnson in that category. In addition, the club can count on Mike Haynes (he led the NFL in punt returns two seasons ago) in reserve.

GRADE A+

COACHING: Pardon Chuck Fairbanks for being bitter. The Patriots could well have been the finest team in football but early season lapses caused this club to miss out on the post-season fun. Fairbanks has an outstanding staff headed by Hank Bullough, an underrated defensive strategist in the mold of Bill Arnsparger.

GRADE A

FRONT OFFICE: Patriots have top rated personnel department headed by Bucko Kilroy who learned his craft well while with the Cowboys. Fairbanks is also the G. M. but he listens to Kilroy and Jim Valek's advice and allows them considerable authority. Team has profited immensely from decision to deal Plunkett for parcel of draft choices and has added total of 18 players (six starters) in last three drafts.

GRADE A

PREDICTION: If Fairbanks can keep every one healthy while Owner Billy Sullivan attempts to keep them happy with renegotiated or extended contracts, the Patriots stand an excellent chance of knocking off the Colts and outlasting the Dolphins in what may be this season's most exciting divisional competition. Pats will have to win against quality opposition like Oakland, Dallas, Cincinnati, Houston and Washington to combat effects of four games against Miami and Baltimore.

Sam Cunningham leads vaunted Pat ground game.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
S. Cunningham	270	1015	3.8	31	4
INTERCEPTIONS	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**LG**	**TD**
Mike Haynes	5	54	10.8	22	0

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Stanley Morgan	16	2	220	13.8	53	0
Mike Haynes	24	2	200	8.3	46	0

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
Steve Grogan	305	160	52.5	2162	17	21	6.9

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Sam Cunningham	42	370	8.8	35	1
Daryl Stingley	39	657	16.8	68	5
KICK-OFF RETURNS	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**LG**	**TD**
Raymond Clayborn	28	869	31.0	101	3

PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
Mike Patrick	65	64	36.2	28.9

SCORING	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
John Smith	33	33	15	21	78

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
85	Adams, Julius	DE	6-4/260	8	4/26/48	Tex. Southern	14
61	Adams, Sam	G	6-3/252	7	9/20/48	Prairie View	14
	Bachman, Ted	CB	6-0/190	2	1/19/52	NMS	*0
59	†Barnes, Ted	CB	6-1/240	12	8/31/45	Southern	12
27	Beaudoin, Doug	S	6-1/200	3	5/15/54	Minnesota	11
64	Bishop, Richard	NT	6-1/260	3	3/23/50	Louisville	12
65	Boyd, Greg	DE	6-6/265	2	9/15/52	San Diego St.	13
58	Brock, Pete	C	6-5/253	3	7/14/54	Colorado	14
82	Burks, Steve	WR	6-5/211	4	8/6/53	Arkansas St.	13
44	Calhoun, Don	RB	6-0/198	5	4/29/52	Kansas St.	14
87	Chandler, Al	TE	6-3/229	5	1/18/50	Oklahoma	14
26	Clayborn, Ray	CB	6-1/181	2	1/2/55	Tex.-Austin	14
22	†Conn, Dick	S	6-0/180	5	1/9/51	Georgia	14
55	Costict, Ray	LB	6-0/215	2	3/19/55	Miss. St.	14
39	Cunningham, S.	RB	6-3/224	6	8/15/50	USC	14
76	Cusick, Pete	NT	6-1/255	2	10/27/52	Ohio State	*0
38	Forte, Ike	RB	6-0/196	3	3/8/54	Arkansas	13
48	Fox, Tim	S	5-11/186	3	11/1/53	Ohio State	14
81	Francis, Russ	TE	6-6/240	3	4/3/53	Oregon	10
70	Gray, Leon	T	6-3/256	6	11/15/51	Jackson St.	11
14	Grogan, Steve	QB	6-4/200	4	7/24/53	Kansas St.	14
71	Hamilton, R.	NT	6-1/245	6	1/20/51	Oklahoma	14
73	Hannah, John	G	6-2/265	6	4/4/51	Alabama	11
80	Hasselbeck, D.	TE	6-7/242	2	4/1/55	Colorado	14
40	Haynes, Mike	CB	6-2/189	3	7/1/53	Arizona St.	14
24	Howard, Bob	CB	6-2/175	12	12/24/44	San Diego St.	14
50	Hunt, Sam	LB	6-1/240	5	8/6/51	Stphn.F.Austin	13
23	Ivory, Horace	RB	6-0/198	2	8/8/54	Oklahoma	5
32	Johnson, Andy	RB	6-0/204	4	10/18/52	Georgia	*0
63	Jordan, Shelby	T	6-7/260	3	1/23/52	Wash.,Mo.	10
52	King, Steve	LB	6-4/230	6	6/10/51	Tulsa	14
67	Lenkaitis, W.	C	6-4/250	11	6/30/46	Penn State	14
72	Lunsford, Mel	DE	6-3/250	6	6/13/50	Cen. St.,Oh.	13
34	McCray, Prentice	S	6-1/187	5	3/1/51	Arizona St.	14
78	McGee, Tony	DE	6-4/245	8	1/18/49	Bishop	14
66	McKay, Bob	T	6-5/265	9	12/27/47	Texas	12
	McNeil, Pat	RB	5-9/208	2	2/28/54	Baylor	*1
86	Morgan, Stanley	WR	5-10/176	2	2/17/55	Tennessee	14
57	Nelson, Steve	LB	6-2/230	5	4/26/51	No. Dak. St.	13
77	Neville, Tom	T	6-4/253	13	8/12/43	Miss. St.	14
17	Owen, Tom	QB	6-1/194	5	9/1/52	Wichita St.	*0
2	Patrick Mike	P	6-0/213	4	9/6/52	Miss. St.	14
35	Phillips, Jess	RB	6-1/208	11	2/28/47	MSU	14
53	Romaniszyn, J.	LB	6-1/220	4	9/17/51	Edinboro St.	*0
56	Shoate, Rod	LB	6-1/211	3	4/26/53	Oklahoma	14
1	Smith, John	K	6-0/185	5	12/30/49	S'hamptn,Eng.	14
84	Stingley, D.	WR	6-0/195	6	9/18/51	Purdue	14
63	Sturt, Fred	G	6-4/255	4	1/6/51	Bowling Green	14
83	Westbrook, D.	WR	5-10/184	2	11/1/52	Nebraska	13
54	Zabel, Steve	LB	6-4/235	9	3/20/48	Oklahoma	11

*Johnson and Romaniszyn missed '77 season due to injury; Cusick missed '76 & '77 seasons due to injury; Bachman last active with Miami in '76; McNeil played 1 game with Kansas City; Owen was active for 14 games but did not play. †Option playout; subject to developments.

MIAMI DOLPHINS

1978 Schedule		
9/3	at N.Y. Jets	1:00
9/10	at Baltimore	4:00
9/17	BUFFALO	4:00
9/24	at Phila.	1:00
10/1	ST. LOUIS	1:00
10/9	CINN.(Mon.)	8:30
10/15	at San Diego	1:00
10/22	at New Eng.	1:00
10/29	BALTIMORE	4:00
11/5	DALLAS	4:00
11/12	at Buffalo	1:00
11/20	at Hous.(Mon.)	8:00
11/26	N.Y. JETS	1:00
12/3	at Washington	1:00
12/10	OAKLAND	4:00
12/18	N.E. (Mon.)	9:00

1977 Results		
9/18	at Buffalo (+2)	13-0
9/25	at S.F. (+4)	19-15
10/2	HOUS. (+4½)	27-7
10/9	at Balt. (-7)	28-45
10/16	JETS (+9½)	21-17
10/23	SEA. (+16)	31-13
10/30	SAN D. (+5½)	13-14
11/6	at Jets (+4)	14-10
11/3	N.E. (-2)	17-5
11/20	at Cinn. (+1½)	17-23
11/24	at St. L (-6)	55-14
12/5	BALT. (-2)	17-6
12/11	at N.E. (-3½)	10-14
12/17	BUF. (+13)	31-14

The last time the Dolphins made a trade of such magnitude as the deal which acquired the talented services of Delvin Williams from San Francisco, Don Shula was still the coach of the Baltimore Colts and Joe Thomas was the man in charge of Joe Robbie'e personnel department.

Seventeen days after Thomas dealt away Miami's first round selection of the 1970 draft in exchange for Paul Warfield, Don Shula took over as Miami's field boss. Such a move eventually cost the Dolphins another number one — the team's first selection in the '71 draft was awarded to the Colts as compensation for the loss of Shula — but both deals worked out beyond the wildest dreams of success envisioned by either Robbie or Thomas.

Now Shula is of the opinion that he has put together the same kind of potentially rewarding deal with Joe Thomas for Williams, the fluid speed merchant from Kansas who became expendable when O.J. Simpson was imported from Buffalo.

Williams was obtained at the cost of a number one draft pick as well as a fifth round selection. In addition, the Dolphins gave up on the potential of Fred Solomon and Vern Roberson, both of whom figure to start for San Francisco.

Shula was the first to admit that he had paid a stiff price, but he was also of the opinion that in getting Williams, the Dolphins obtained an experienced player who has proven himself as a ballcarrier, as a receiver and as a blocker. Certainly, Williams, who was a second round choice in the 1974 draft after a fine senior season at K-U, has the credentials to confirm Shula's sentiments. In the last two seasons, Williams has rushed for a total of 2134 yards while also doubling effectively as a receiver with 47 catches worth an additional total of 452 yards. And, since the Colts were interested in obtaining Williams to spark their outside running game, Shula already is ensured of an opening, winning, move in what could become one of the hottest divisional races in memory. Aside from the Williams trade, Shula and his staff have reason for optimism because of how well the team played during the final two months of the 1977 schedule. Bolstered by a return to top flight form on the part of Bob Griese, who once again led the NFL in passing, as well as the significant contributions of two superbly gifted rookie defensive linemen, A. J. Duhe and Bob Baumhower, the Dolphins came within a much disputed 'whistle' of representing the AFC East in the playoffs.

QUARTERBACK: Simply put, Bob Griese enjoyed perhaps his finest season of a very distinguished career. One of the premier play callers in the game, Griese bounced back from mediocre '76 season and was major reason why Dolphin attack was back to play-off form. Top rated passer in the NFL with QB proficiency mark of 88.0 compiled on the strength of 58.6% completion figure. Griese totaled 2252 yards while throwing for 22 TDs against 13 interceptions. Don Strock still unproven but Shula has confidence in four year vet from Virginia.

GRADE A+

RUNNING BACK: Quality through and through. Addition of Williams will give Dolphins finest game-breaking threat since Mercury Morris was focal point of Miami's championship ground attack. Benny Malone, unhappy at being benched because of late-season tendency of fumbling, is likely to be traded. Leroy Harris showed what he could do in that exciting Monday night upset of Baltimore while former Colts,Bulaich and Nottingham, maintain reputation for dependability. Gary Davis has excellent speed but needs experience.

GRADE A+

RECEIVERS: Speed, moves and disciplined pattern running is hallmark of Dolphin passing attack. Nat Moore is finest WR in the NFL, and he has the stats to prove it. A total of 52 catches for 14.7 average and 12 TDs allowed Moore to top Warfield's club records. Speed and potential of Duriel Harris — 34 receptions and a 17.7 average — prompted Shula's decision to include Solomon in Niner package. Andre Tillman, Jim Mandich and Loaird McCreary provide depth at TE. Departure of Solomone will leave opening for back-up WR.

GRADE A +

OFFENSIVE LINE: Veteran unit played up to past performance level as Jim Langer returned to pro-bowl form at center. Larry Little can still pull and was factor in success of inside running game as well. Wayne Moore, called upon to play hurt, played well. Bob Kuechenberg can still get the job done. Mike Current was acceptable stop-gap at right tackle. Ed Newman, one of the most talented reserve lineman in the league, should find full-time employment at guard, especially if Little is shifted to tackle. Club will focus draft needs here.

GRADE B+

DEFENSIVE LINE: A. J. Duhe, the number one pick from LSU, was the AFC's top defensive rookie. Played all out and kept mistakes to a minimum. Came up with several big plays and helped team make smooth transition caused by departure of Stanfill and release of Crowder and Reese. Bob Baumhower did fine job as well and both rookies performed like veterans, in supplying keystone effort of Shula's revamped front three. Vern Den Herder was enjoying a fine season before suffering late-season knee problems that further tested the depth up front. Bob Heinz is qualified replacement while Bob Matheson can handle DE assignment in 3-4 alignment if needed. Bill Stanfill, forced to sit out last season with neck problems, could make a comeback if given medical approval.

GRADE B+

LINEBACKERS: Injury hex continued from the year before as Steve Towle was idled late in the campaign. Mike Kolen was struck down mid-way through the schedule and Ernie Rhone was lost early with more knee troubles. Still, Bill Arnsparger worked wonders with the remaining talent. Kim Bokamper and Larry Gordon could well be the finest pair of young linebackers to come into the league since Jim Lynch and Willie Lanier were rookies with the Chiefs. Steve Towle, noted for his hard-hitting tackling efforts as well as the way he handles pass coverage assignments, was sorely missed in stretch drive. Towle, a sixth round pick from Kansas (where he was a teammate of Delvin Williams) in 1975, is right behind Lambert as most effective AFC middle linebacker. Matheson continues in his versatile and valuable reserve role.

GRADE A

SECONDARY: Injuries hurt here as well but coaching staff did masterful job of meshing rookies with veterans. Norris Thomas proved to be a life-saver at cornerback

while Vern Roberson was a pleasant surprise at FS. However, departure of the latter in Williams trade as well as expected retirement of Dick Anderson leaves job open. Tim Foley moved to SS and played well enough while Curtis Johnson maintained hold on other starting corner spot. Club will be looking to bolster deep secondary with possible trade. Charles Cornelieus is main reserve.

GRADE B

KICKING GAME: Garo Yepremian signed on for three more years despite poorest season as Dolphin. Mike Michel has strong leg and has replaced Larry Seiple as regular punter. Michel also kicks off. Duriel Harris and Gary Davis give Dolphins potent return game despite loss of Solomon. Yepremian will have to revert to form to cause higher rating here.

GRADE B-

COACHING: Legendary Shula heads finest coaching staff in the NFL. Despite plague of injuries, loss of two starters in Reese and Crowder, Shula, by sheer force of his personality and a touch of coaching genius, remade the Dolphins into primary contenders almost overnight. Club rebounded from 6-8 season to force AFC Eastern race into final week of play, and then some. Bill Arnsparger, Howard Schnellenberger, John Sandusky (all of whom have been head coaches) and Tom Keane give Dolphins nucleus of strongest coaching staff in the game. Mo Scarry and Carl Taseff may be underrated, but they were main reasons why Duhe, Baumhower, Leroy Harris and Gary Davis developed so rapidly.

GRADE A++

FRONT OFFICE: Joe Robbie has seemingly done it again. Letting his dollar first philosophy stand in the way, Robbie, who also let Joe Thomas escape, refused to keep Bobby Beathard happy and wound up losing him to the Redskins. Fortunately for Shula and the Dolphin ownership, George Young is still around to lend his considerable expertise as a working General Manager without title. Chuck Connor, a regional scout with the BLESTO combine, has been appointed Director of Player Personnel in place of Beathard, and he will have a difficult time matching the extraordinary accomplishments of his two predecessors.

GRADE B+

PREDICTION: Tough schedule will handicap Dolphin ambitions to return to post-season play. In addition to the four contests with the Patriots and the Colts, Shula must prepare for the likes of the Raiders, Cowboys, Bengals, Oilers, Chargers and Redskins. It won't be easy, but if Delvin Williams can spark the offense the way Shula expects, it would be foolhardy to risk anything of value against the Dolphins earning a wild card shot at the least, if not outright control of the AFC East penthouse.

Don Shula howls about missing the '77 playoffs.

MIAMI DOLPHINS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Benny Malone	129	615	4.8	66	5
INTERCEPTIONS	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**LG**	**TD**
Curtis Johnson	4	35	8.8	19	0
PUNT RETURNS	**NO**	**FC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**LG**	**TD**
F. Solomon	32	1	285	8.9	39	0

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
Bob Griese	307	180	58.6	2252	22	13	4.2
RECEIVING	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**LG**	**TD**
Nat Moore	52	765	14.7	73	12
KICK-OFF RETURNS	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**LG**	**TD**
Gary Davis	14	414	29.6	73	0
PUNTING	**NO**	**LG**	**AVG**	**NET AVG**
Mike Michel	35	61	38.2	32.5
SCORING	**TD**	**TDR**	**TDP**	**PTS**
Nat Moore	13	1	12	78

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
76	Alexander, J.	DE	6-2/250	2	11/12/55	Rutgers	4
85	Anderson, T.	WR	5-9/182	2	1/10/55	Bethune-Ckmn	11
49	Babb, C.	S	6-0/190	7	2/4/50	Memphis St	6
52	Ball, Larry	LB	6-6/235	7	9/27/49	Louisville	8
78	Barisich, C.	DT	6-4/255	6	7/12/51	Princeton	3
73	Baumhower, B.	DT	6-5/258	2	8/4/55	Alabama	14
	Bertuca, T.	LB	6-2/225	2	1/4/49	Chico St.	0*
58	Bokamper, K.	LB	6-6/245	2	9/25/54	San Jose St.	14
31	Bulaich, N.	RB	6-1/212	9	12/25/46	TCU	14
51	Chambers, R.	LB	6-1/220	4	11/10/53	Tulane	14
44	Cornelius, C.	CB	5-9/176	2	7/27/52	Bethune-Ckmn	13
71	Current, Mike	T	6-4/270	12	9/17/45	Ohio St.	14
27	Davis, Gary	RB	5-10/202	3	9/7/54	Cal Poly-SLO	14
83	Den Herder, V.	DE	6-6/252	8	11/28/48	Central Iowa	11
77	Duhe, A. J.	DE	6-4/247	2	11/27/55	LSU	14
75	Dvorak, Rick	DE	6-4/245	4	4/21/52	Wichita St.	6*
25	Foley, Tim	S-CB	6-0/194	8	1/22/48	Purdue	14
50	Gordon, Larry	LB	6-4/230	3	7/8/53	Ariz. St.	14
12	Griese, Bob	QB	6-1/190	12	2/3/45	Purdue	14
82	Harris, D.	WR	5-11/175	3	11/27/54	New Mex.St.	14
38	Harris, L.	RB	5-9/220	2	7/3/54	Ark. St.	11
72	Heinz, Bob	DT	6-6/260	9	7/25/47	Pacific	14
45	Johnson, C.	CB	6-1/196	9	6/22/48	Toledo	14
57	Kolen, Mike	LB	6-2/222	8	1/31/48	Auburn	6
67	Kuechengerg, B	G-T	6-2/255	9	10/14/47	Notre Dame	14
62	Langer, Jim	C	6-2/253	9	5/16/48	S.D.S.	14
66	Little, Larry	G-T	6-1/265	12	11/2/45	Bthn-Ckmn	14
32	Malone, Benny	RD	5-10/193	5	2/3/52	Ariz. St.	14
88	Mandich, Jim	TD	6-2/214	9	7/30/48	Michigan	14
53	Matheson, Bob	LB	6-4/235	12	11/25/44	Duke	14
80	McCreary, L	TE	6-5/227	3	3/15/53	Tenn. St.	14
17	Michel, Mike	P-K	5-10/177	2	8/4/54	Stanford	13
89	Moore, Nat	WR	5-9/180	5	9/19/51	Florida	14
79	Moore, Wayne	T	6-7/265	9	8/17/45	Lamar	14
64	Newman, Ed	G	6-2/245	6	6/4/51	Duke	14
36	Nottingham, D	RD	5-10/210	8	6/28/49	Kent St.	14
65	Pesuit, Wally	G-T	6-4/250	2	3/4/54	Kentucky	14
55	Rhone, Earnest	LB	6-2/212	3	8/20/53	Henderson St.	4
42	Roberson, Vern	S	6-2/195	2	8/3/52	Grambling	14
59	Roberts, Guy	LB	6-1/220	7	6/12/50	Maryland	4
20	Seiple, Larry	P-WR	6-1/214	12	2/14/45	Kentucky	13
86	Solomon, F	WR	5-11/181	4	1/11/53	Tampa	13
10	Strock, Don	QB	6-5/220	5	11/27/50	Va. Tech	4
41	Thomas, Norris	CB	5-11/175	2	5/3/54	So. Miss	14
87	Tillman, A	TE	6-5/230	4	11/1/52	Tex. Tech	14
56	Towle, Steve	LB	6-2/233	4	10/23/53	Kansas	12
21	Volk, Rick	S	6-3/195	12	3/15/45	Michigan	3
70	Windauer, Bill	DT	6-3/245	4	11/22/49	Iowa	0*
1	Yepremian, G	K	5-8/175	11	6/2/44	No College	14
74	Young, Steve	T	6-8/263	3	7/8/53	Colorado	14

*Bertuca last active with Baltimore in '74; Dvorak played 5 games with N.Y. Giants, 1 with Miami; Windauer active 1 game but did not play.
Option playout; subject to developments.
Retired—Dick Anderson

BALTIMORE COLTS

1978 Schedule		
9/4	at Dal. (Mon.)	8:00
9/10	MIAMI	4:00
9/18	at N.E.(Mon.)	9:00
9/24	at Buffalo	1:00
10/1	PHILA.	2:00
10/8	at St. Louis	1:00
10/15	N.Y. JETS	2:00
10/22	DENVER	4:00
10/29	at Miami	4:00
11/6	WASH. (Mon.)	9:00
11/12	at Seattle	1:00
11/19	CLEVELAND	2:00
11/26	NEW ENG.	4:00
12/3	at N.Y. Jets	1:00
12/9	at Pitts. (Sat.)	1:00
12/17	BUFFALO	2:00

1977 Results		
9/18	at Sea. (+14)	29-14
9/25	at Jets (+14)	20-12
10/2	Buffalo (+13)	17-14
10/9	MIAMI (+7)	45-28
10/16	at K. C. (+13)	17-6
10/23	at N. E. (-2)	3-17
10/30	PITTS. (+2)	31-21
11/7	WASH. (+10½)	10-3
11/13	at Buff. (+10½)	31-13
11/20	Jets (+16)	33-12
11/27	at Den. (+15)	13-27
12/5	at Miami (+2)	6-17
12/11	DET. (+15)	10-13
12/18	N. E. (+5)	30-24

Ted Marchibroda is intent on maintaining the Colts reign as AFC Eastern Champs for the fourth consecutive year.

After losing four of the first five games he coached back in 1975, the Baltimore Colts have smashed their way through the division (19-3) enroute to forging a remarkable overall regular season winning percentage of .810 on the strength of a 30-7 W-L performance.

However, to expect the Colts to dominate divisional rivals to the same extent this season would be premature. Especially since New England and Miami figure to be even tougher opponents in light of their splendid performances that marked the close of the most exciting AFC divisional race since realignment was effected.

Yet, the Colts have a certain confidence that they represent an improved club as well, noting the strong effort against the Raiders which ended in a bitter overtime defeat that knocked Baltimore out of the playoffs in the first round for the third consecutive season.

Unlike the previous two wipe-outs against the Steelers that left Marchibroda bemoaning certain personnel shortages in the secondary, the loss to Oakland has left a curious sense of accomplishment throughout the organization.

The feeling is, if the team could do so well in spite of contractual distractions (the bitter struggle between Howard Slusher, agent for both John Dutton and Roger Carr, and the Colt front office lasted far too long) and a skein of injuries that seemed scripted for M.A.S.H., the defense of the AFC Eastern Crown, though difficult, ought to be successful because of the squad's overall improvement.

QUARTERBACK: Bert Jones, coming off another excellent season, has approached greatness in almost every area. His stats are superb, his arm strong and his skill evident. However, there remains a nagging doubt about Bert's ability to deliver his best performances at the most important times. However, his play against the Raiders should have quieted such concern. And, the full-time return of Roger Carr should help Jones improve on last year's (17 TDs, 2686 yards and 57.0% completion mark) impressive numbers. Mike Kirkland and Bill Troup will compete for the number two role which Marchibroda hopes not to utilize.

GRADE A

RUNNING BACK: Lydell Mitchell continued in his patented role as one of the AFC's most productive performers. Mitchell carried the ball 301 times (only Walter Payton and Mark van Eeghen had more) for a total of 1159 yards and a respectable 3.9 average. The Penn State alumnus also led the NFL in receiving with 71 catches for 620 yards. But some thought — the Colt offensive attack, without the presence of Carr, was stereotyped and not near the challenge it could have been against some of the better defenses. There was also some dissatisfaction on the overall play of the FB combination of Roosevelt Leaks and Ron Lee. Leaks, an excellent blocker and tough inside runner, fumbled too much while Lee, showing raw talent at times, did not execute with the consistent precision demanded by Marchibroda. Don McCauley remains a dependable performer with a knack for getting tough yardage and making clutch possession catches. Club needs to improve bench strength here.

GRADE A-

RECEIVERS: Drastic fall off in deep passing game traceable to knee injury suffered by Roger Carr following summer long absence due to contract problems. When Carr did return to the lineup late in the season he showed why (especially against the Patriots) his speed is the principal component in the Colt passing attack. If healthy and happy, Carr should regain all-pro performance level. Freddie Scott, the dependable and precise pattern runner from Amherst, proved he can play regularly in the NFL when he filled in for Carr and Doughty. The latter remains an enigma. Glenn has potential to be consummate long-range threat but tendency to drop the ball at inopportune moments labels him as inconsistent. Lack of outside threat caused Jones to throw total of 122 passes to Mitchell and McCauley. Raymond Chester remains an outstanding receiver (31 catches, 17.9 average and 3 TDs) as well as an accomplished blocker at TE but his criticism of Jones and the Colt offense has not been appreciated nearly as much. Speedster Marshall Johnson, if healthy, could challenge Scott and Doughty for starting WR berth, along with last year's number one pick, Randy Burke who spent the season on the injured reserve list.

GRADE A

OFFENSIVE LINE: Fine performance by left side of line where underrated David Taylor and Robert Pratt reside keynoted efforts of Colts aggressive front wall. Ken Mendenhall workman type at center. Elmer Collett was missed in the early going following injury, but Ken Huff showed promise in stepping into starting spot. George Kunz, the superbly gifted right tackle, was burdened by a bothersome knee problem throughout the season and his pass blocking suffered a bit. His blocking for the run remained at pro-bowl level. Reserve talent thin here also.

GRADE A-

DEFENSIVE LINE: Vaunted Sack Pack did not trap QBs with accustomed precision. Dutton's holdout and Joe Erhmann's wrist injury, which idled him for six games, hurt unit's timing. Dutton did not have kind of season associated with past performance. Mike Barnes emerged as the club's premier lineman and most consistent performer. Barnes was voted as NFL's top defensive lineman by NFLPA. Fred Cook continues as big play performer on left side and should have gotten Pro Bowl recognition that went to Dutton. Ken Novak saw considerable action in place of Ehrmann and did well enough to pose a serious threat to latter's incumbency. Ron Fernandez did an adequate job in relief of Dutton and is the main reserve for both end spots. Number two pick Mike Ozdowski spent his rookie season in traction and, if recovered, should contribute to making this the deepest area of the defensive roster.

GRADE A-

LINEBACKERS: Ed Simmonini did fine job in middle despite lack of real NFL size. Has good mobility and hustles on every play. Colts obtained veteran insurance in person of Willie Lanier, former Chief star who once rivaled Colts own Mike Curtis as game's premier MLB. Tom MacLeod consistent outside linebacker who plays the run better than the pass. Stan White has made more big plays than one should expect from 17th round draft choice. White has the knack for producing key interceptions and timely fumble recoveries. Derrel Luce, who filled in

capably for MacLeod two seasons ago, heads up talented reserve corps thot also includes headhunter types in Sanders Shiver and Calvin O'Neal, the former Michigan hitter.

GRADE B+

SECONDARY: Colts were vastly improved here because of free-agent signing of Norm Thompson and astute waiver acquisition of Lyle Blackwood. Thompson, a former number one pick of the Cardinals, took over the left corner and shored up a main defensive weakness. Blackwood, cut loose by Seattle, wound up leading the NFL with ten interceptions from the FS spot he inherited from Jackie Wallace. Bruce Laird and Nelson Munsey retained their starting postions and did fairly well at SS and RCB. Doug Nettles and Lloyd Mumphord are reserves.

GRADE B+

KICKING GAME: Toni Linhart had fine early season but had trouble in late going as he missed several big kicks in Colts' month long slump. Still pro-bowl type and has strong consistent leg. David Lee is below average punter and should be replaced. Howard Stevens, returning from a broken jaw, sparks Colts' specialist units and should be ably assisted by likes of Marshall Johnson (87 yard KO return against Oakland) and Randy Burke, as well as Bruce Laird.

GRADE B

COACHING: Marchibroda was controversial figure at times last season. Patriot fans would surely give him an F for his failure to take a safety in that horrid Lion affair, but it would be undeserved. Overall three year mark of 31-11 has Marchibroda ahead of even Shula and Ewbank in terms of Colts' winning percentage. Will be shooting for fourth consecutive divisional crown. Maxie Baughn is Marchibroda's top defensive assistant while Dick Bielski is in charge of the receivers and Whitey Dovell returns as the club's offensive line coach.

GRADE A

FRONT OFFICE: Colts strong here as well. G. M. Dick Szymanski handles personnel duties well enough, while top assistant Ernie Accorsi has accomplished project of rebuilding club's image with what had been the league's faithful fans. Fred Schubach is a qualified Director of Player Personnel while Bob Terpening is the chief college scout. Owner Bob Irsay seems to be happy with restructured organization following exodus of Joe Thomas and was particularly pleased at the level of co-operation attained between Marchibroda and his front office.

GRADE B+

PREDICTION: Colts are slight favorite to maintain divisional laurels, but could fall prey to either the Patriots or the Dolphins. Club must continue to dominate divisional pairings with consistency shown over past three seasons. Colts also face other main contenders such as Dallas, Denver, Pittsburgh and Washington.

Bert Jones pulls trigger for the Colts' aerial game.

BALTIMORE COLTS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Lydell Mitchell	301	1159	3.9	64	3

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Lyle Blackwood	10	163	16.3	37	0

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Howard Stevens	34	6	301	8.9	24	0

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
Bert Jones	393	224	57.0	2686	17	11	2.8

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Lydell Mitchell	71	620	8.7	38	4
KICK-OFF RETURNS	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**LG**	**TD**
Bruce Laird	24	541	22.5	35	0

PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
David Lee	82	59	38.3	29.5

SCORING	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Toni Linhart	32	35	17	26	83

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
83	†Alston, Mack	TE	6-5/233	9	4/27/47	Maryland-E.S	14
63	Barnes, Mike	DT	6-6/256	6	12/24/50	Miami	14
47	Baylor, Tim	S	6-6/191	3	5/23/54	Morgan State	13
44	†Blackwood, L.	S	6-0/190	6	5/2/51	TCU	14
50	Blue, Forrest	C	6-6/260	11	9/7/45	Auburn	14
81	Carr, Roger	WR	6-3/196	5	7/1/52	La. Tech	7
87	Chester, R.	TE	6-4/236	9	6/28/48	Morgan St.	14
66	Collett, Elmer	G	6-5/246	12	11/7/44	San. Fran. St.	5
72	Cook, Fred	DE	6-3/243	5	4/15/52	So. Miss.	14
55	Dickel, Dan	LB	6-3/230	5	8/24/52	Iowa	14
35	Doughty, G.	WR	6-1/205	7	1/30/51	Michigan	13
78	†Dutton, J.	DE	6-7/266	5	2/6/51	Nebraska	12
76	Ehrmann, J.	DT	6-4/254	6	3/29/49	Syracuse	9
73	Fernandes, R.	DE	6-4/255	4	9/11/51	E. Michigan	14
69	Griffin, W.	T	6-5/231	2	8/7/54	Mississippi	14
62	Huff, Ken	G	6-4/262	4	2/21/53	UNC	14
80	Johnson, M.	WR	6-1/196	3	11/1/52	Houston	3
7	Jones, Bert	QB	6-3/212	6	9/7/51	LSU	14
85	Kennedy, J.	TE	6-3/230	4	7/30/52	Colorado St.	9
15	Kirkland, M.	QB	6-1/195	3	6/29/54	Arkansas	*0
75	Kunz, George	T	6-5/262	10	7/5/57	Notre Dame	14
40	Laird, Bruce	S	6-1/198	7	5/23/50	Amer. Intrn'tinal	14
48	Leaks, R.	RB	5-10/225	4	1/31/53	Texas	11
49	Lee, David	P	6-5/216	13	11/8/43	La. Tech	14
34	Lee, Ron	RB	6-4/228	3	9/17/53	UWV	13
2	Linhart, Toni	K	5-11/179	5	7/24/42	Austria Tech	14
58	Luce, Derrel	LB	6-3/227	4	9/29/52	Baylor	12
52	MacLeod, Tom	LB	6-4/224	5	1/10/51	Minnesota	14
23	McCauley, Don	RB	6-1/215	8	5/12/49	N.C. State	14
57	Mendenhall, K.	C	6-3/250	8	8/11/48	Oklahoma	14
26	Mitchell, L.	RB	5-11/198	7	5/30/49	Penn St.	14
42	Mumphord, L.	CB	5-10/178	10	12/20/46	Tex. Southern	2
31	Munsey, N.	CB	6-1/186	7	7/2/48	Wyoming	13
30	Nettles, Doug	CB	6-0/178	4	8/13/51	Vanderbilt	14
74	Novak, Ken	DT	6-7/264	3	7/3/54	Purdue	12
25	Oldham, Ray	CB-S	5-11/192	6	2/23/51	Mid. Tenn.	14
	Olsen, Orrin	C	6-1/245	2	7/7/53	BYU	*0
61	Pratt, R.	G	6-4/248	5	5/25/51	UNC	14
28	Satterwhite, H.	WR-KR	5-11/185	3	5/5/53	Sam Houston St.	1
86	Scott, F.	WR	6-3/175	5	8/5/52	Amherst	14
54	Shiver, S.	LB	6-2/222	3	2/14/55	Carson-Newman	14
56	Simonini, Ed	LB	6-0/210	3	2/2/54	Texas A&M	14
27	Stevens, H.	KR-RB	5-5/165	5	2/9/50	Louisville	12
54	Taylor, D.	T	6-5/264	6	10/17/49	Catawba	14
43	Thompson, N.	CB	6-1/180	8	3/5/45	Utah	14
88	Thompson, R.	WR	6-0/176	3	5/15/54	Baylor	5
12	Troup, Bill	QB	6-5/215	5	4/2/51	So. California	14
57	Van Duyne, B.	G-T	6-4/244	5	5/12/52	Idaho	9
53	White, Stan	LB	6-1/223	7	10/24/49	Ohio State	14

*Kirkland was active for 9 games but did not play; Olsen last active with Kansas City in '76.
†Option playout; subject to developments.

BUFFALO BILLS

1978 Schedule		
9/3	PITTS.	1:00
9/10	N.Y. JETS	4:00
9/17	at Miami	4:00
9/24	BALTIMORE	1:00
10/1	KANSAS CITY	1:00
10/8	at N.Y. Jets	1:00
10/15	at Houston	1:00
10/22	CINN.	1:00
10/29	at Cleveland	1:00
11/5	NEW ENG.	1:00
11/12	MIAMI	1:00
11/19	at Tampa Bay	1:00
11/26	N.Y. GIANTS	1:00
12/3	at Kansas City	1:00
12/10	at New Eng.	1:00
12/17	at Baltimore	2:00

1977 Results		
9/18	MIAMI (-2)	0-13
9/25	at Denver (-13)	6-26
10/2	at Balt. (-13)	14-17
10/9	JETS (+6)	19-24
10/16	ATLANTA (-2)	3-0
10/23	CLEVE. (-5½)	16-27
10/30	at Sea. (+3½)	17-56
11/6	at N.E. (-18)	24-14
11/13	BALT. (-10½)	13-31
11/20	N.E. (-10½)	7-20
11/28	at Oak. (-16½)	13-34
12/4	WASH. (-6)	0-10
12/11	at Jets (-7½)	14-10
12/17	at Miami (-13)	14-31

As Anita Bryant used to say so often, starting a day without orange juice can almost guarantee a lack of sunshine. Well, Chuck Knox, for reasons he best understands himself, (one motivating factor was a lengthy and rewarding contract to run the entire show) has not only left the sunshine and smog of Los Angeles for the snow and cold of Buffalo, but he has also traded away the Bills' supply of Juice.

To be sure, the Bills were hardly competitive with Simpson the past two seasons, and considering the number of premium draft choices garnered by Knox in the much discussed deal with San Francisco, the club has seemingly insured the successful launching of a new era of rebuilding.

As for the reasons why he shuffled off to a Buffalo team with prospects as dismal as the area's winter weather, let Knox, himself, explain: "We jumped at the opportunity to become the new head coach of the Bills because we believe we can structure the kind of a program here that will again make Buffalo a force in the AFC. We want to put together the kind of a total organization that will make the Bills competitive with the best the NFL has to offer, year in and year out."

Indeed. And, with the appointment of Norm Pollom, a respected personnel expert whose long career with the Rams proved his expertise via one of the best drafting records in the NFL since 1970, Knox, in his role as Vice President and General Manager, has started making the kind of changes in the front office that will help Buffalo to attain the goal of consistent competitiveness.

Still, there remains a lack of overall quality throughout the roster, and the mistakes made by Ralph Wilson, Lou Saban and Harvey Johnson, which foredoomed the efforts of Jim Ringo, will haunt Knox as well.

Consequently, it will be quite some time before Knox will hear mostly affirmative answers to his own favorite question: "Every day, we have to ask ourselves 'what have we done to make the Buffallo Bills a winner?' That's the reason, the only reason, this team exists."

QUARTERBACK: Joe Ferguson threw the most passes in the NFL last year and produced more yards (2,803) than any other QB in the league. It wasn't nearly enough. Ferguson, whose talented and tireless arm was subject at times to inaccuracy and inconsistency, will not be expected to throw nearly as often under the direction of Knox who has always been predisposed toward establishing a potent ground game. Ken Johnson and Fred Besana represent untried potential.

GRADE B

RUNNING BACK: It would be somewhat of an understatement to point out that O.J. Simpson's departure leaves a wide-open field for a starting berth at the tailback position. When the Juice was sidelined mid-way through the season with knee troubles, Roland Hooks stepped in and totaled 497 yards. Burly Jim Braxton, returning from knee surgery of his own, was not as productive a runner as in the past but his blocking remained superb while he also showed improvement as a receiver. Curtis Brown, the former Missouri star, was enjoying moderate success until he too was lost with knee problems. Stan Winfrey, former Dolphin sub, lacks speed while Mike Collier, ex-Steeler back-up, could surprise.

GRADE C-

RECEIVERS: Bob Chandler again caught more (60) passes than any other wide receiver in the NFL. Despite a lack of great speed, Chandler makes the tough catches just as often as the easy ones, and his blocking is better than average. Chandler runs extremely precise patterns and is gifted with superb hands. Reuben Gant, with 41 catches, enjoyed his most productive season at TE and such improvement may result in Knox switching Paul Seymour to offensive tackle. Club lacked season-long deep threat because of injury to John Holland. Number two pick John Kimbrough wasn't utilized often enough. Lou Piccone, while a good special teams performer, is not good enough to play regularly. Look for Kimbrough to pressure Holland for spot opposite Chandler.

GRADE B-

OFFENSIVE LINE: Knox will see to it that the Electric Company sustains the team's reputation for forward progress. Still hard to understand why Ringo favored the pass so often when people like Joe Delamieullere, Reggie McKenzie and Dave Foley were still available to power tough inside running game. Joe Devlin was an improvement over the departed Donnie Green at right tackle while center Willie Parker performed better than expected. If Foley elects to retire, Knox will look for help from Paul Seymour whose reputation as a blocking TE is considerably more solid than his pass catching credentials. Bill Adams, Ken Jones and Connie Zelencik make up thin reserve corps.

GRADE B+

DEFENSIVE LINE: Knox summed up the club's lack of defense rather succinctly: "You don't give up an average of better than 340 points per year, as Buffalo did in 1975-6-7, and win the NFL." Instead, you get fired. Quite naturally, Knox will be looking to improve one of the league's weakest pass rushes (17 sacks) while finding a competitive blend of personnel to man the front line. A year ago the Bills favored utilization of the 3-4 defense because of a lack of quality up front. While Mike Kadish proved that some Notre Dame All-American defensive linemen can play that way in the NFL, Sherman White, a former number one pick of the Bengals, failed to play up to potential on the right side. Bill Dunstan and John Little shared the other tackle spot while Ben Williams did fairly well as an effective pass rusher and also showed ability to pursue running plays with the kind of abandon he expressed at Ole Miss. Knox plans to give last year's top pick Phil Dokes considerably more playing time.

GRADE C-

LINEBACKERS: Injuries to several key performers — John Skorupan was lost for the season in the second week of play — hurt the overall effectiveness of this unit. Merv Krakau played well in the middle after Skorupan went down while free agent Shane Nelson stepped in at OLB and led the team in tackles. Nelson is an aggressive hitter. Ditto Dan Jilek, the former Michigan star. Both, however, need to improve pass coverage. Former number one pick Tom Rudd seems nailed to the bench. Bob Nelson played out his option and left for Oakland. That leaves Nelson and Bo Cornell as the main reserves in a talent thin area.

GRADE C

SECONDARY: Mario Clark is fast developing into a fine young CB and backed up previous number one draft status with seven interceptions. Dwight Harrison is still

tough to beat one on one and plays the run effectively. Tony Greene bounced back from serious injury problem and led the club with nine interceptions. Greene is premier FS and worthy of all-pro recognition. Doug Jones is an aggressive SS who gets too many costly penalties. Keith Moody and Steve Freeman will be given shot at full time employment off fine performances on special teams.

GRADE B

KICKING GAME: Knox should be familiar with Carson Long whom he cut from Rams roster. Long was picked up as free agent by the Bills and did fairly good job from inside the 40-yard-line, connecting on four of five opportunities. Marv Bateman, was league's leading punter in 1976, dropped off somewhat but still did effective job in overall battle for field position. Keith Moody is superlative punt return specialist who is establishing club records in this vital specialty, including 94 yard TD jaunt against the Browns. John Kimbrough's speed will be utilized here as well as at WR.

GRADE B-

COACHING: Knox' record speaks for itself. Five seasons as a head coach and five divisional titles. If he makes it number six with his first edition of the Bills, he ought to be given charge of downstate budget problems. But, as he himself pointed out: "Chuck Knox is no miracle worker, but hard work can make up for a lot of things. No staff in pro football will outwork the Buffalo Bills." That staff will include several members of Knox L.H. contingent. Tom Catlin will be in charge of the linebackers as well as defensive co-ordinator. Elijah Pitts, who worked for Knox a total of five seasons, will handle the offensive backfield and double as the special teams coach. Ray Proschaka has also been given double assignment — offensive line and offensive co-ordinator.

GRADE A-

FRONT OFFICE: Ralph Wilson's decision to make Knox overseer of every facet of the team's football operation has been greeted warmly by Buffalo fans. Knox, who knows that he can't expect to handle every detail, will delegate considerable authority to Norm Pollom and Doug Haffner in the player personnel department while Assistant G. M. Stew Barber handles the administrative side of player and trade negotiations. But Knox, who was denied such power in the multi-tiered front office structure of the Rams, is definitely the man in charge of the Bill operation.

GRADE B

PREDICTION: Knox should make enough of a difference to enable the Bills to resume a competitive role as divisional spoilers in a difficult duel with the Jets to avoid last place in the AFC East.

John Skorupan must come back from an injury.

BUFFALO BILLS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
*O.J. Simpson	126	557	4.4	39	0
Roland Hooks	128	497	3.9	66	0

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Tony Greene	9	144	16.0	47	0

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Keith Moody	15	6	196	13.1	91	1

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
Joe Ferguson	457	221	48.4	2803	12	24	5.3

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Bob Chandler	60	745	12.4	31	4

KICK-OFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
John Kimbrough	15	346	23.1	27	0

PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
Marv Bateman	81	75	39.3	29.2

SCORING	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Carson Long	13	14	7	11	34

No Longer With Club

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
60	†Adams, Bill	G	6-2/246	6	2/4/50	Holy Cross	9
7	Bateman, Mary	P	6-4/215	7	4/5/50	Utah	14
34	Braxton, Jim	RB	6-1/240	8	5/23/49	UWV	14
47	Brown, Curtis	RB	5-10/203	2	12/7/54	Missouri	7
81	Chandler, Bob	WR	6-1/180	8	4/24/49	USC	14
29	Clark, Mario	CB	6-2/195	3	3/29/54	Oregon	14
35	†Collier, M.	RB	5-11/200	3	9/21/53	Morgan St.	6
50	Collins, Greg	LB	6-2/235	4	12/8/52	Notre Dame	11
30	†Cornell, Bo	LB	6-2/220	8	3/7/49	Washington	12
68	DeLamielleure, J.	G	6-3/245	6	3/16/51	MSU	14
70	Devlin, Joe	T	6-5/250	3	2/23/54	Iowa	14
85	Dokes, Phil	DE	6-5/255	2	9/7/55	Okla. St.	12
76	Dunstan, Bill	DT	6-4/255	6	1/3/49	Utah St.	14
12	Ferguson, Joe	QB	6-1/195	6	4/23/50	Arkansas	14
78	Foley, Dave	T	6-5/247	9	10/28/47	Ohio St.	13
36	Franckowiak, M.	RB	6-3/225	4	3/25/53	Cen. Mich.	13
22	Freeman, S.	CB-S	5-11/185	4	5/8/53	Miss. St.	14
88	†Gant, Reuben	TE	6-4/225	5	4/12/52	Okla. St.	14
43	Greene, T.	S	5-10/175	8	8/29/49	Maryland	14
28	Harrison, D.	CB	6-2/185	8	10/12/48	Texas A&I	12
80	Holland, J.	WR	6-1/190	5	2/28/52	Tenn. St.	3
25	Hooks, R.	RB	6-0/195	3	1/2/53	N.C. State	14
	Hull, Tom	LB	6-3/230	3	6/30/52	Penn State	*0
51	Jilek, Dan	LB	6-2/225	3	12/3/53	Michigan	14
14	Johnson, K.	QB	6-2/205	2	1/5/51	Colorado	*0
24	Jones, Doug	S	6-2/205	5	11/23/51	Calif. St.	14
73	Jones, Ken	T	6-5/250	3	12/1/52	Arkansas St.	14
71	Kadish, Mike	DT	6-5/270	6	5/27/50	Notre Dame	14
82	Kimbrough, J.	WR	5-10/165	2	8/12/54	St. Cloud St.	14
52	†Krakau, Merv	LB	6-2/230	6	5/15/51	Iowa State	14
72	Little, John	DT	6-3/250	9	5/3/47	Okla. St.	12
5	Long, Carson	K	5-10/200	2	12/16/54	Pittsburgh	9
	McCrumbly, J.	LB	6-1/245	2	7/28/52	Texas A&M	*0
67	McKenzie, R.	G	6-4/242	7	7/27/50	Michigan	14
46	Moody, Keith	CB-KR	5-10/170	3	6/13/53	Syracuse	14
79	Morton, Greg	DE	6-1/230	2	10/8/53	Michigan	9
59	Nelson, Shane	LB	6-1/225	2	5/25/55	Baylor	14
61	Parker, Willie	C	6-3/245	7	12/28/48	No. Tex. St.	14
89	†Piccone, Lou	WR	5-9/175	5	7/17/49	W. Liberty St.	14
26	Romes, Charles	S	6-1/190	2	12/16/53	N.C. Central	14
54	Ruud, Tom	LB	6-3/230	4	7/26/53	Nebraska	8
87	Seymour, Paul	TE	6-5/245	6	2/6/50	Michigan	14
55	Skorupan, J.	LB	6-3/225	6	5/15/51	Penn State	2
83	White, Sherman	DE	6-5/250-	7	10/6/48	California	14
77	Williams, B.	DE	6-3/245	3	9/1/54	Mississippi	14
86	Willis, Len	WR	5-11/185	3	3/4/53	Ohio State	*11
38	Winfrey, Stan	RB	5-11/220	4	2/20/53	Arkansas St.	*5
	Young, Randy	T	6-5/250	2	7/4/54	Iowa St.	*0
53	Zelencik, C.	C	6-4/245	2	4/3/55	Purdue	14

*Hull last active with Green Bay in '75; Johnson active for 14 games but did not play; McCrumbly last active with Buffalo in '75; Willis played 7 games with New Orleans, 4 with Buffalo; Winfrey played 2 games with Tampa Bay, 3 with Miami; Young last active with Tampa Bay in '76.
†Option playout; subject to developments.

NEW YORK JETS

If there were such an honor, the Jets, under the guidance of Jim Kensil and the strong direction of Walt Michaels, would have driven off with the NFL Allied Van Lines Award. That's because there were more comings (28 new players) and goings (27 members of the '76 squad were cut loose) in the Jet camp than on any other established club in the league.

Upon taking over the Jets' head coaching post that had been foolishly denied to him once before (when the club opted for Charlie Winner), Michaels issued a direct warning to his players.

The fun was over. From now on, the Jets would be a disciplined, hard-working, aggressive football team recognized and respected throughout the league despite what is still an obvious lack of talent.

While the club managed to win just three games, the image of the Jets took on the aggressive and disciplined nature envisioned by the tireless Michaels. Discounting a two game relapse at the conclusion of the campaign, the Jets were no pushovers in 1977. In addition to an upset win over the Patriots, the club managed to stay competitive with the likes of the Dolphins, Raiders and Steelers. Indeed, until the club suffered a rash of injuries to key personnel such as Richard Todd, Greg Buttle and Marvin Powell, Michaels and his staff seemed destined to play a spoiler role down the stretch.

Statistically, there was improvement in virtually every key area. On defense the club's pass rush improved to a more respectable total of 26 sacks while turnovers remained constant. Keyed by a hard-hitting, aggressive linebacking contingent the Jets fared much better against the run and knocked off a total of 83 points in the scoring against column.

Offensively, the passing attack, when Todd was healthy, resembled the deep strike potential of the past when Namath was throwing bombs to Sauer and Maynard. Now, it is Todd who drops back and completes long distance connections with the likes of Richard Caster, Jerome Barkum and flashy newcomer, Wesley Walker.

To be sure, the Jets have an immediate need to improve an anemic rushing game to prevent defenses from concentrating their efforts on blunting the threat posed by Todd's aerial attack. There is also an obvious need for a quality defensive lineman to further upgrade the pass rush as well as some much needed speed in the secondary.

Suffice it to say, that Walt Michaels welcomes the challenge of scaring hell out of contenders both inside and outside of the AFC East, and is not at all dismayed by the fact that over the last two seasons, the teams with the toughest schedules lost their coaches (Bill Arnsparger with the Giants and Paul Wiggin in Kansas City) mid-way through the season with a combined record of one win in 14 attempts.

QUARTERBACK: For Richard Todd, the 1977 season was divided into two parts. Prior to suffering a disabling knee injury, Todd was improving on a game to game basis. He scared holy hell out of the Raiders with a 375 yard performance and a superb ability to go deep. However, following a three game rest because of knee troubles, Todd came back and threw far too many interceptions to suit Walt Michaels. Todd finished with a total of 1863 yards, 11 TDs and 17 interceptions, and if he can stay healthy, figures to be even better the third time around. Matt Robinson is an impressive prospect with a strong arm and an ability to move.

GRADE B

1978 Schedule

9/3	MIAMI	1:00
9/10	at Buffalo	4:00
9/17	SEATTLE	1:00
9/24	at Washington	1:00
10/1	PITTSBURGH	1:00
10/8	BUFFALO	1:00
10/15	at Baltimore	2:00
10/22	ST. LOUIS	1:00
10/29	at New Eng.	1:00
11/5	at Denver	2:00
11/12	at Phila.	1:00
11/19	NEW ENG.	1:00
11/26	at Miami	1:00
12/3	BALTIMORE	1:00
12/10	at Cleveland	1:00
12/17	DALLAS	1:00

1977 Results

9/18	at Hous. (-7½)	0-20
9/25	BALT. (-14)	12-20
10/2	N. E. (-13½)	30-27
10/9	at Buffalo (-6)	24-19
10/16	at Miami (-9½)	17-21
10/23	OAK. (-13)	27-28
10/30	at N. E. (-13½)	13-24
11/6	MIAMI (-4)	10-14
11/13	SEA. (+9½)	0-17
11/20	at Balt. (-16)	12-33
11/27	PITTS. (-15)	20-23
12/4	at N. O. (-4½)	16-13
12/11	BUFF. (+7½)	10-14
12/18	at Phila. (-7)	0-27

RUNNING BACK: Jets featured no name attack. Clark Gaines again led the team in rushing and was Michaels' most dependable runner. Charlie White, Scott Dierking and Kevin Long gave good effort, but remain journeyman types. There is still a prime need for a top flight runner with speed and power. Bruce Harper gave gutty performance as specialist and spot player.

GRADE C

RECEIVERS: Wesley Walker showed why he was considered first round material. Former Cal star is gifted with blazing speed but needs to curb penchant for dropping potential TD passes in the open field. Still, Walker led the NFL in average with a 21.1 yard per catch figure forged on 35 receptions worth a total of 740 yards. Michaels switch of Barkum and Caster at TE and WR worked beautifully and gave jets most dangerous deep passing attack in the league. Quality depth needed here with departure of David Knight.

GRADE A

OFFENSIVE LINE: Considering the number of switches in personnel, this area performed much better than expected. Randy Rasmussen had an outstanding season and earned several all-pro mentions. Number one pick Marvin Powell was awesome in the early going before being hindered by worrisome knee problems. Gary Puetz, Joe Fields and rookies Dan Alexander and Darrell Austin were pleasant surprises. Caliber of pass protection vastly improved as trap total dropped to 35.

GRADE B

DEFENSIVE LINE: Inconsistent play against the run hurt here but pass rush was surprisingly effective despite spate of injuries to front line performers. Abdul Salaam had good season as did Larry Pillars on the outside. Rookie Joe Klecko proved to be Michaels' kind of player: tough, aggressive and not prone to repeat same mistake twice. Barzo played well early but knee trouble and contract problems could cause possible trade. John Hennesey showed potential, while Albert Burton, ex-Oiler, Cowboy and Raider prospect, could be steal as late free-agent pick-up.

GRADE B

LINEBACKERS: Michaels' pride and joy. Greg Buttle could be most improved player in the league. Outstanding hitter with nose for big play. Future Pro Bowl regular if he can stay healthy. John Ebersole and Larry Keller also rate high marks for consistency and ability to hit. Loss of Bob Martin with shoulder problems hurt overall effectiveness. Al Palewicz is a fine special teams player. Unit is clearly the strength of the defense.

GRADE B+

SECONDARY: Jets are in need of quality help at vital cornerback spots. Left side assignment was shared by Billy Hardee and Mo Tyler, but neither was up to covering top receivers. Ed Taylor okay performer on right side. Burgess Owens, improving at FS and should be even better now that contract problems have been solved. Shafer Suggs still a prospect despite being injury prone. Little quality depth hurts overall grade.

GRADE D+

KICKING GAME: Pat Leahy, thanks to confidence of Walt Michaels, survived disastrous early season happenings and proved he can kick under pressure. Has strong leg and is fairly accurate. Leahy will get better. Not so Chuck Ramsey. Stop-gap punter at best. Bruce Harper key return man with excellent speed. Punting hurts overall grade here as well.

GRADE C-

COACHING: Tough, hard-nosed approach of Michaels paid immediate dividends in first season. Players worked like hell for him and played like they practiced. Excellent marks for strategy (especially the shift of Caster and Barkum) and discipline. This is best coached Jet squad since Super Bowl triumph. John Idzik worked wonders in developing potential of Richard Todd.

GRADE A

FRONT OFFICE: Jim Kensil, formerly Pete Rozelle's right hand man, has given Jets much needed front office leadership as well as organization. Jets are not going to make the same kind of administrative mistakes they have made in the past. Club had total of eleven draft choices make final 1977 roster and continued improvement will be the responsibility of Mike Hickey and Jim Royer, the men in charge of the Jets' revamped personnel department.

GRADE C+

PREDICTION: Tough to pick the Jets last in the AFC East because you know Michaels will keep the club competitive. However, nod must go to reality, in form of monster schedule, over optimism, no matter how deserved.

NEW YORK JETS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Clark Gaines	158	595	3.8	19	3

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Burgess Owens	3	18	6.0	12	0

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Bruce Harper	34	5	425	12.5	49	0

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
Richard Todd	265	133	50.2	1863	11	17	6.4

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Clark Gaines	55	469	8.5	31	1

KICK-OFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Bruce Harper	42	1035	24.6	60	0

PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
Chuck Ramsey	62	61	37.1	29.6

SCORING	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Pat Leahy	18	21	15	25	63

Greg Buttle is latest in line of Penn State LBs.

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
60	Alexander, D.	G	6-4/245	2	6/17/55	Louisiana St.	14
67	Austin, Darrell	G-C	6-4/252	4	11/5/51	So. Caro.	9
83	†Barkum, Jerome	TE	6-4/217	7	7/18/50	Jackson St.	14
77	†Barzilauskas, C.	DT	6-6/270	5	3/19/51	Indiana	9
71	Bleamer, Jeff	T	6-4/253	4	6/22/53	Penn State	8
72	Burton, Al	DE-DT	6-5/265	3	3/30/52	Beth.-Cook.	*6
	Butler, Gerald	WR	6-5/210	2	6/5/54	Nicholls St.	*0
51	Buttle, Greg	LB	6-3/229	3	6/20/54	Penn State	13
88	Caster, Rich	WR	6-5/230	9	10/16/48	Jackson St.	10
	Coleman, Don	LB	6-2/227	3	1/11/52	Michigan	*0
25	Dierking, Scott	RB	5-10/215	2	5/24/55	Purdue	14
80	Diggs, Shelton	WR	6-1/190	2	4/22/55	USC	7
10	†Domres, Marty	QB	6-4/220	10	4/17/47	Columbia	12
55	Ebersole, John	LB	6-3/235	9	11/5/48	Penn State	13
65	Fields, Joe	C-C	6-2/245	4	11/14/53	Widener	14
21	Gaines, Clark	RB	6-1/201	3	2/1/54	Wake Forest	14
45	Giammona, Louie	RB-KR	5-9/180	2	3/3/53	Utah State	*0
37	Hardee, Billy	CB	6-0/185	2	8/12/54	Virginia Tech	14
42	Harper, Bruce	RB-KR	5-8/174	2	6/20/55	Kutztown St.	14
63	Hennessy, John	DE	6-3/246	2	3/12/55	Michigan	14
52	Hennigan, M.	LB	6-2/215	6	10/24/51	Tenn. Tech	14
56	Keller, Larry	LB	6-2/225	3	10/2/53	Houston	14
73	Klecko, Joe	DT	6-3/256	2	10/15/53	Temple	13
82	†Knight, David	WR	6-2/170	6	2/1/51	Wm. & Mary	
5	Leahy, Pat	K	6-0/190	5	3/19/51	St. Louis	14
33	Long, Kevin	RB	6-1/205	2	1/20/55	So. Carolina	14
27	Mabra, Ron	CB	5-10/170	4	6/4/51	Howard	3
68	Marshall, Tank	DT	6-4/245	2	1/6/55	Texas A&M	5
59	Martin, Bob	LB	6-1/223	3	11/14/53	Nebraska	5
44	Newton, Tom	RB	6-0/205	2	3/8/54	California	14
22	†Owens, Burgess	S	6-2/195	6	8/2/51	Miami	14
53	Palewicz, Al	LB	6-2/220	5	3/23/50	Miami	14
24	Parker, Artimus	S	6-4/200	5	1/15/52	USC	11
76	Pillers, Lawrence	DE	6-3/257	3	11/4/52	Alcorn St.	13
	Powell, Darnell	RB	5-11/200	2	5/31/54	Tenn.-Chatt.	*0
79	Powell, Marvin	T	6-5/264	2	8/30/55	USC	11
78	Puetz, Garry	T	6-4/265	6	3/14/52	Valparaiso	14
86	Raba, Bob	TE	6-1/222	2	4/23/55	Maryland	14
5	Ramsey, Chuck	P	6-2/195	2	2/24/52	Wake Forest	12
17	Robinson, M.	QB	6-2/196	2	6/8/55	Georgia	4
61	Roman, John	T-G	6-4/251	3	8/31/52	Idaho St.	9
74	Salaam, Abdul	DT	6-3/260	3	2/12/53	Kent State	14
48	Schroy, Ken	S-CB	6-2/191	2	9/22/52	Maryland	14
23	Suggs, Shafer	S	6-1/200	3	4/28/53	Ball State	9
38	Taylor, Ed	CB	6-0/176	4	5/13/53	Memphis St.	14
14	Todd, Richard	QB	6-2/205	3	11/19/53	Alabama	12
39	Tyler, Maurice	CB	6-0/190	7	7/19/50	Morgan St.	14
85	Walker, Wesley	WR	6-0/172	2	5/26/55	California	14
30	White, Charlie	RB	6-0/222	2	8/31/53	Beth.-Cook.	13

*Coleman, Giammona missed '77 season due to injury; Burton played 6 games with Houston, was active but did not play for N.Y. Jets; Butler was active for 5 games with Kansas City, but did not play; Powell last active with Buffalo in '76.

†Option playout; subject to developments.

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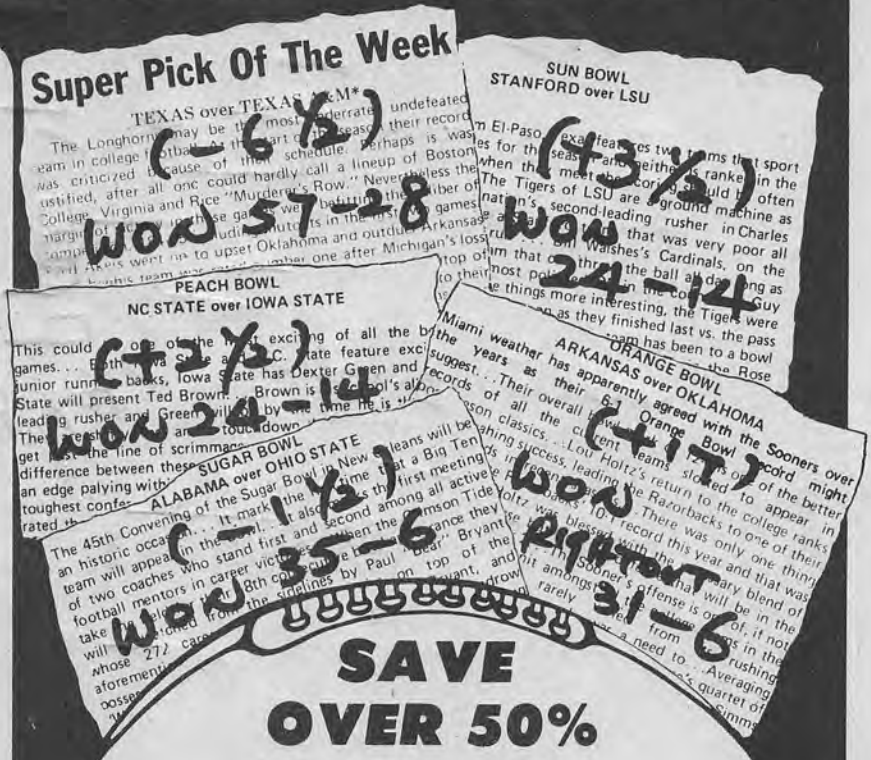

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SUPER BOWL XII
DALLAS over DENVER

The Cowboys meet the Broncos in New Orleans for the NFL Championship game it should be a very interesting match-up between two teams coming in the conference at the top of their game. Dallas comes into Super Bowl XII, for the fourth time, to the surprise of nobody while the Broncos were considered a longshot to make it to the biggest game of their lives. The Denver "Orange Crush" and the Dallas "Doomsday Defense" might be the two best defenses in the league today but the Broncos don't match the Cowboys on the attack and they will need some more of their magic to win this one. Denver is consistent on offense and the Craig Morton led unit is very efficient while turning the ball over very few times. Dallas, on the other hand, is explosive on the attack as Staubach, Dorsett and the Pearsons, give the Cowboys so many weapons that they are almost impossible to stop. Neither team gives the opposition second chances. This fact should rank first and second in likelihood, bring no doubt as to the outcome.

DALLAS (-5½)
WON 27-10

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Oilers Beat Pointspread

By KEITH ADAMS

If there's one thing certain about pointspread records, it's that there's nothing certain. The Houston Oilers, a mere 7-7 against the spread in 1976, climbed to the top of the heap in 1977 with a 10-4 mark against the points.

And what of 1977's tri-pointspread champions, the Pittsburgh Steelers, Chicago Bears and Baltimore Colts? The Steelers put on another stretch drive but actually wound up backing into the AFC Central title and the playoffs when the Bengals bowed to Houston on the final weekend of the regular season, accentuating Pittsburgh's fall to just 6-8 against the points. The Bears realized the playoffs, too, drawing the NFC Wild Card with a 9-5 mark, but were just 6-6-2 in the pointspread loop. The Colts, with a questionable officiating call going their way, also gained the playoffs, registering a 10-4 log, but could manage only 6-8 against the points.

Houston was not the only team to make significant gains against the points from the previous year. The Atlanta Falcons improved from 5-9 in 1976 to 8-6 against the spread in 1977. The New York Jets went from 6-8 to 8-5-1 while the Miami Dolphins improved from 5-9 to 7-5-2.

New England was another team that slipped noticeably, plunging from 9-5 to 5-8, further adding credence to the theory that oddsmakers are generally a capricious and whimsical sort, over-burdening the previous year's successes and underrating last season's failures. This allows little room for change and is often unrealistic.

The"hot" teams of 1976, New England, Baltimore, Cincinnati and St. Louis, of which more was expected in 1977, were assigned pointspread imposts that they were unable to overcome. Only the Colts were .500 in the favorite's role for instance. Baltimore was 6-6 but the Pats were just 4-7-1, the Bengals 3-5 and the Cardinals 3-6-1.

Another case where the oddsmakers overreacted was the Detroit Lions. The year before (1976) the Lions posted a perfect 7-0 home mark against the spread. In 1977 at Pontiac Stadium Detroit was a paltry 1-6. Replacing Detroit as the new "home" champions were Los Angeles and Denver. Both teams had 6-1 records on friendly turf.

The best road teams last year were Cleveland (5-1-1), Philadelphia (5-2) and Houston (5-2). The Eagles were never favored on the road so their 5-2 mark was also in the role of an underdog.

Some teams fared much better getting points than giving, and vice versa. The Washington Redskins wound up just 1-6 as favorites but 6-1 as underdogs. The New Orleans Saints lost all three games in which they were favored, but managed a 6-4 mark as underdogs. San Diego was another team that couldn't handle favoritism. The Chargers were just 1-3 as the public choice and 6-2 as underdogs. On the other side of the ledger, Denver was 8-3 giving points and just 1-2 getting them. The Cleveland Browns fashioned a 3-1 mark as favorites but fell to 4-5-1 as underdogs.

Finally, the only team favored in every contest was the Oakland Raiders while Tampa Bay was the lone 14-game underdog.

	ACTUAL RECORD			FAVORITE VS. SPREAD			UNDERDOG VS. SPREAD			SPREAD RECORD
Team	Home	Away	Total	Home	Away	Total	Home	Away	Total	
Atlanta Falcons	4-3	3-4	7-7	3-1	1-2	4-3	1-2	3-1	4-3	8-6
Baltimore Colts	6-1	4-3	10-4	4-3	2-3	6-6	0-0	0-2	0-2	6-8
Buffalo Bills	1-6	2-5	3-11	0-1	0-1	0-2	1-5	3-3	4-8	4-10
Chicago Bears	5-2	4-3	9-5	2-3-1	2-3	4-6-1	1-0	1-0-1	2-0-1	6-6-2
Cincinnati Bengals	5-2	3-4	8-6	1-3	2-2	3-5	2-1	1-2	3-3	6-8
Cleveland Browns	2-5	4-3	6-8	1-1	2-0	3-1	1-4	3-1-1	4-5-1	7-6-1
Dallas Cowboys	6-1	6-1	12-2	4-3	2-2-1	6-5-1	0-0	1-1	1-1	7-6-1
Denver Broncos	6-1	6-1	12-2	6-0	2-3	8-3	0-1	1-1	1-2	9-5
Detroit Lions	5-2	1-6	6-8	0-4	0-1	0-5	1-2	2-3-1	3-5-1	3-10-1
Green Bay Packers	2-5	2-5	4-10	0-0-2	1-0	1-0-2	0-4-1	3-2-1	3-6-2	4-6-4
Houston Oilers	5-2	3-4	8-6	2-1	3-0	6-1	3-1	2-2	4-3	10-4
Los Angeles Rams	7-0	3-4	10-4	6-1	2-4	8-5	1-0	0-0	1-0	9-5
Kansas City Chiefs	1-6	1-6	2-12	1-2	0-0	1-2	3-1	4-3	7-4	8-6
Miami Dolphins	6-1	4-3	10-4	3-2	1-1-2	4-3-2	2-0	1-2	3-2	7-5-2
Minnesota Vikings	5-2	4-3	9-5	1-5-1	2-1-1	3-6-2	0-0	0-2-1	0-2-1	3-8-3
New England Patriots	6-1	3-4	9-5	2-4-1	2-3	4-7-1	0-0	0-1	0-1	5-8*
New Orleans Saints	2-5	1-6	3-11	0-3	0-0	0-3	2-1	4-3	6-4	6-7*
New York Giants	3-4	2-5	5-9	0-1	1-0	1-1	4-2	2-4	6-6	7-7
New York Jets	1-6	2-5	3-11	0-2	0-0	0-2	4-0-1	4-3	8-3-1	8-5-1
Oakland Raiders	6-1	5-2	11-3	4-3	3-4	7-7	0-0	0-0	0-0	7-7
Phladelphia Eagles	4-3	1-6	5-9	2-3	0-0	2-3	1-1	5-2	6-3	8-6
Pittsburgh Steelers	6-1	3-4	9-5	4-2	1-3	5-5	0-1	1-2	1-3	6-8
St. Louis Cardinals	4-3	3-4	7-7	2-3-1	1-3	3-6-1	0-1	2-1	2-2	5-8-1
San Diego Chargers	3-4	4-3	7-7	1-2	0-2	1-4	3-0	2-2	5-2	7-5*
San Francisco 49ers	3-4	2-5	5-9	0-3	1-1	1-4	1-1-2	2-2-1	3-3-3	4-7-3
Seattle Seahawks	3-4	2-5	5-9	1-0-1	0-0	1-0-1	3-2	3-4	6-6	7-6-1
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	1-6	1-6	2-12	0-0	0-0	0-0	4-3	4-3	8-6	8-6
Washington Redskins	5-2	4-3	9-5	1-3	0-3	1-6	3-0	3-1	6-1	7-7

*Totals do not equal 14 because of 'pick' games.

Brawling Steelers Still Pack KO Punch

AFC CENTRAL

1978 PREDICTED FINISH

FINAL 1977 NFL TEAM STANDINGS

	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Op
Pittsburgh	9	5	0	.643	283	243
Houston	8	6	0	.571	299	230
Cincinnati	8	6	0	.571	238	235
Cleveland	6	8	0	.429	269	267

PRO BOWL
NFC 14, AFC 13

Only three games separated the winners from the losers in the AFC Central Division where the 1977 race went down to the final week, and, while it may seem improbable, the fight for the loop's invitee to the post-season bash could be even tougher this time around.

The Steelers rate a thin edge because of overall talent and the coaching of Chuck Noll. The Oilers are much improved on paper and have the additional motivation of having been 'whistled' out of the playoffs to prod their pursuit of the Steelers.

Cincinnati continues to puzzle but the Bengals could still find a way to make their late-season leads of the past two years stand up. The Browns, though in the midst of rebuilding, could spoil the season for the rest of the neighborhood.

PLAYER PERSONNEL UPDATE

STEELERS: Chuck Noll didn't mince words when he promised that the distractions of last season would be negated. Ernie Holmes was 'given' to Tampa for a tenth and eleventh draft choice while Jimmy Allen and Glen Edwards are not expected to return either. In their place is former Packer DT Dave Purefoy, who, before he tore a leg muscle, was thought to be a better than average pass rusher. The Steelers then utilized the draft to shore up the areas where Noll felt the club had slipped in last year's inconsistent season. Number one pick Ron Johnson, a hard tackling DB from Eastern Michigan whose hero (shades of Robin Cole) just happens to be Jack Tatum, will afford Noll the opportunity of replacing both Allen and Glen Edwards in the Pitt secondary that was handicapped by injuries and dissension. Holmes' fate was sealed when the Steelers selected Willie Fry, (Ross Browner's shadow) in the second round. The addtion of Fry, along with the arrival of Purefoy, should serve to strengthen the Steel Curtain. With Bobby Walden having retired, the club was most happy to obtain Craig Colquitt, (45+ average and near 5.0 hang-time), Tennessee's fine punter in the third round. Jim Clack and Ernie Pugh were sent to the Giants in exchange for John Hicks, once thought to be the Buckeye's finest offensive lineman since Jim Parker. Hicks, considered to be a flagrant holder and a distinct disappointment to the Giants, will no doubt turn out to be an excellent addition to the Steel blocking wall. And, his ability to play both tackle and guard will make him even more valuable. Somehow, Chuck Noll will find a way to get Hicks to play up to his previous potential.

OILERS: Houston's decision to pursue the rights to Earl Campbell has already been justified at the box office and if he can play the kind of role (similar to that of Franco Harris at Pittsburgh) envisioned by Bum Phillips, the Oilers, already possessed of excellent big play offense, will be ever tough to handle. Campbell, compared by most scouts to Jimmy Brown as well as Franco, can do it all. He runs with power and speed and can take the ball outside or up the middle. He is an accomplished blocker as well and could prove to be a dangerous receiver. The Oilers feel they were indeed fortunate to obtain even more help for the offense with the third round selection of Gifford Nielsen, BYU's record setting passer, who will duel Tommy Duniven for the right to back-up Dan Pastorini. Mike Renfro, the talented son of former Browns' star Ray, will provide an excellent complement to the big play capability of Billy Johnson and Ken Burrough. Jerrel Wilson could help kicking game immensely while the straight up transaction involving Anthony Davis and Don Hardeman has to be rated even because neither the Oilers nor the Bucs were satisfied with what they had.

BENGALS: As usual, the Bengals were blessed with an abundance of premium selections (six choices in the first three rounds) and Paul Brown seemd to exercise them with the club's usual expertise. Ross Browner, the dominating force behind the Irish pass rush, was obtained with a selection of the Eagles that represented final payment for Bill Bergey. Blair Bush, a fair sized prospect from Washington, is expected to provide Bengals with successor to Bob Johnson. Ray Griffin will join brother Archie and could make a bid for a starting berth in the Bengal secondary.

BROWNS: Cleveland enjoyed what seems to be a potentially fine draft. Gifted with a pair of number ones thanks to the Bears' lust for Mike Phipps, the Brownies chose Clay Matthews, the highly regarded MLB from USC and Ozzie Newsome, the spectacular, sure-handed burner from Alabama. Matthews will join last year's number one selection, Robert Jackson (who missed his rookie season with a severe knee injury) in a bid to break into the starting linebacking unit. Number two pick John Evans is a talented punter with a strong leg who can also play QB. Larry Collins, who averaged over 7 yards per carry throughout his four-year career at Texas A&I, could prove to be a steal, having been inexplicably left available until the third round.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

1978 Schedule		
9/3	at Buffalo	1:00
9/10	SEATTLE	1:00
9/17	at Cincinnati	1:00
9/24	CLEVELAND	1:00
10/1	at N.Y. Jets	1:00
10/8	ATLANTA	1:00
10/15	at Cleveland	1:00
10/23	HOUS.(Mon.)	9:00
10/29	KANSAS CITY	1:00
11/5	NEW ORL.	1:00
11/12	at Los Angeles	5:00
11/19	CINCINNATI	4:00
11/27	at S.F. (Mon.)	6:00
12/3	at Houston	1:00
12/9	BALT. (Sat.)	1:00
12/16	at Den. (Sat.)	2:00

1977 Results		
9/19	S. F. (+13½)	27-0
9/25	OAK. (-2½)	7-16
10/2	at Cleve. (+4)	28-14
10/9	at Hous. (+10)	10-27
10/17	CINN. (+3)	20-14
10/23	HOUS. (+11½)	27-10
10/30	at Balt. (-2)	21-31
11/6	at Denver (-1)	7-21
11/13	CLEVE. (+4½)	35-31
11/20	DALLAS (+2)	28-13
11/27	at Jets (+15)	23-20
12/4	SEA. (+20)	30-20
12/10	at Cinn. (+2½)	10-17
12/18	at S. D. (-3)	10-9

For the Steelers, 1977 was a most uncharacteristic season. Filled with turnovers, dissension and dissatisfaction, the year started out on a discordant note with the legal absurdities of the Noll/Atkinson affair causing turmoil and unrest throughout the team's summer preparations.

Added to such general disruption was a prevailing sense of disenchantment over contractual matters which were highlighted by the holdout of Jack Lambert, the bitterness of Mel Blount's reaction to being branded a part of the NFL's 'criminal element' and the regular season walkout of Glenn Edwards, Jimmy Allen and Ernie Holmes.

To make matters worse, there was an untimely rash of serious injuries which cost the team dearly via the prolonged absence of such stalwarts as L.C. Greenwood, Lambert, Mike Wagner, Rocky Bleier, Jon Kolb and Terry Bradshaw.

All these factors, coupled with a definitive decline in overall execution, contributed to the team's inconsistent performance best illustrated by the dramatic rise of costly turnovers and unsettling penalties.

Offensively, the club gave up possession of the football via fumbles and interceptions a total of 49 times which was more than twice as often as the year before. Defensively, the club's performance against the run was slightly less effective than in the past.

Statistically, however, the effectiveness of the Steelers' overall pass coverage did not reflect the disturbing penchant for permitting the big play which haunted Noll throughout most of the season. Consequently, the normally stingy defense allowed a total of 243 points compared to the 138 point performance which rescued the team during its memorable 1976 stretch drive.

Chuck Noll and the management of the Steelers are confident that last year's problems are a thing of the past. All of the injured have healed and most of the contractual distractions have been eliminated. The club has a strong nucleus of veteran talent backed up by quality reserve strength that is the usual byproduct of one of the league's better personnel programs.

No doubt, then, Steeler fans and divisional foes can expect a distinct improvement in the team's performance.

QUARTERBACK: Terry Bradshaw was voted MVP by his teammates and the honor was richly deserved. Giving yet another courageous exhibition of skill under the burden of nagging injuries, Bradshaw finished the season with a career high mark of 2,523 yards, the third best figure in the AFC. Although Terry may have thrown more interceptions than Noll thought possible, he did have a number of exceptional games. Strong-armed, mobile and tough characterize Bradshaw's style. Loss of Mike Kruczek didn't help. Cliff Stoudt has live arm and potential to challenge former BC star for number one back-up role. Neil Graff a camp player.

GRADE A

RUNNING BACK: Injuries and problems up front hurt the usually potent Steeler ground game. Rocky Bleier was hobbled throughout the season with an assortment of ailments and his absence from the starting lineup didn't help matters. Franco Harris became only the third runner in history of the game to gain 6,000 yards in his first six seasons of work. One thing Noll was not happy with was Franco's alarming tendency to cough up the football at the worst possible times. Laverne Smith, Jack Delloplaine and veteran John Fuqua were idle throughout the season. Team still blessed with quality depth in person of Reggie Harrison and Sidney Thornton, last year's number two pick. Former Saint reject Alvin Maxson has enough talent to make the final roster.

GRADE A

RECEIVERS: Lynn Swann survived 1976 season fraught with injury and summer of court room turmoil to produce one of most productive years in Steeler annals. Lynn had 50 catches for a 15.8 average and seven TDs. John Stallworth was close behind in catches and yardage and tied with TD receptions. Together, Swann and Stallworth caught more passes than any other WR pairing in the league. Bennie Cunningham emerged as full-time TE who can now block as well as he can catch. A number one pick two seasons ago, Cunningham blossomed into productive receiver with total of 20 catches and an average of 17.4 yards. Team has excellent blend of veteran and young players such as Frank Lewis, Randy Grossman, Jim Smith and Theo Bell.

GRADE A+

OFFENSIVE LINE: The Steeler offensive line may not number any all-pros, but as a unit, this group is rated among the game's most accomplished blockers. Addition of John Hicks will more than make up for loss of Jim Clack. Hicks, a former number one pick of the Giants, is regarded as a disappointment with potential. It will be up to Noll to convert promise into consistent performance. Jon Kolb's early season injury hurt club because of trade of Gordon Gravelle. When Kolb is healthy he is club's best lineman. Sam Davis and Gerry Mullins are the guards and Mike Webster is a tough center. Larry Brown did well enough in switching to OT. Ray Pinney and Ted Petersen supply adequate depth while John Hicks' ability to play both guard and tackle will put him in position to make major contribution.

GRADE A-

DEFENSIVE LINE: Famed Steel Curtain not nearly as effective as in the past and it showed. Injuries, walk-outs and general unhappiness were felt here. Greenwood hobbled by knee problems but should be healthy for the coming campaign. Ernie Holmes was edged out by Steve Furness (the latter led the club with 8 QB sacks) while Joe Greene slipped below pro bowl form. Greene was troubled with injuries and seemed to be a marked man when it came to officials throwing penalty flags. Dwight White had an inconsistent season but should be improved once his contract problems are solved. Main back-up John Banaszak was also idle because of knee trouble. Club found out they might be too thin in this area.

GRADE A-

LINEBACKERS: It is here where the Steelers defense is strongest. There is talent, depth, experience and youth. Enough skill to cause Noll to consider switch to a possible 3-4 alignment to take advantage of surplus talent. Injuries complicated last season's picture. Number one pick Robin Cole had seemingly gained edge on Loren Toews as replacement for retired Andy Russell but early season arm injury frustrated Noll's carefully laid plans. Holdout of Jack Lambert had adverse effect on team morale not to mention his own performance. No doubt Lambert will return to past form now that he is happy and healthy. Rookie find

Dennis Winston showed aggressive style of play and proved to be valuable addition. Jack Ham played up to his reputation and was most consistent linebacker.

GRADE A+

SECONDARY: Mel Blount wanted to sue the coach. Glenn Edwards walked out. So did Jimmy Allen. Mike Wagner wound up idle for the year because of a neck injury. Only J.T. Thomas seemed happy. Donnie Shell won SS job and Blount played up to all-pro form when he came back. Allen is considered to be prime asset because of valuable versatility that allowed him to play all four defensive backfield positions well enough to produce statistical oddity of making an interception at each spot. Edwards critical of management and is likely to be traded.

GRADE A-

KICKING GAME: Noll was unhappy with performance of Roy Gerela who continued to be plagued with leg problems. Bobby Walden won't be back and the club could be in the market for experienced kicking help. Play of special teams left lot to be desired. Coverage was particularly poor. Return game sparked by early success of Jim Smith and Laverne Smith. Then injuries and fumbles took their toll. Noll is not happy with this area of play and will spend a great deal of time in making sure that the breakdowns which were so evident against Denver and Rick Upchurch will be corrected.

GRADE C-

COACHING: Under the circumstances — the lengthy trial that kicked off the season, the holdouts, the acrimony and the injuries—Chuck Noll must be credited with another job well done. His staff earned similar kudos but not enough to keep the valued services of Dan Radakovich and Bud Carson, the team's highly regarded offensive line coach and defensive co-ordinator. Rollie Dotsch will take over Bad Rad's offensive line duties while George Perles handles duel assignment as defensive line coach and overall co-ordination. Woody Widenhofer will have the secondary in addition to the linebacking unit that he has coached so well in the past.

GRADE A

FRONT OFFICE: Art Rooney's franchise is in family hands. Dan Rooney is one of the strongest team presidents in the game while Art Jr., runs a premier scouting department. He is ably assisted by Pro Personnel scout Tim Rooney while Dick Haley and Bill Nunn share the collegiate assignments. Club has added total of 19 players via the draft in last two seasons.

GRADE A+

PREDICTION: With everyone more or less healthy and happy, the Steelers rate the nod as defending champions and will surely participate in the play-offs for a record-setting seventh consecutive season.

Franco Harris epitomizes Steeler ground game.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Franco Harris	300	1162	3.9	61	11

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
M. Blount	6	65	10.8	37	0

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Jim Smith	36	0	294	8.2	30	0

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
T. Bradshaw	314	162	51.6	2523	17	19	6.1

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Lynn Swann	50	789	15.8	46	7

KICK-OFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Jim Smith	16	381	23.8	37	0
Laverne Smith	16	365	22.8	33	0

PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
Bobby Walden	67	65	37.0	29.4

SCORING	TD	TDR	TDP	PTS
Franco Harris	11	11	0	66

SCORING	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Roy Gerela	34	37	9	14	61

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
45	†Allen, Jim	CB-S	6-2/194	5	3/6/52	UCLA	12
76	Banaszak, J.	DE	6-3/244	4	8/24/50	Ea. Michigan	8
83	Bell, Theo	WR	5-11/180	2	12/21/53	Arizona	*0
20	Bleir, Rocky	RB	5-11/210	10	3/5/46	Notre Dame	13
47	Blount, Mel	CB	6-3/205	10	4/10/48	Southern	14
12	Bradshaw, Terry	QB	6-3/215	9	9/2/48	Louisiana Tech	14
79	Brown, Larry	T	6-4/245	8	6/16/49	Kansas	14
50	Clack, Jim	G	6-3/250	8	10/26/47	Wake Forest	14
56	Cole, Robin	LB	6-2/220	2	9/11/55	New Mexico	8
60	Cousino, Brad	LB	6-0/216	4	4/5/53	Miami, Ohio	3
89	Cunningham, B.	TE	6-5/247	3	12/23/54	Clemson	12
57	Davis, Sam	G	6-1/255	12	7/4/44	Allen Univ.	11
35	Deloplaine, J.	RB	5-10/205	3	4/21/54	Salem, W.Va.	8
21	Dungy, Tony	S	6-0/188	2	10/6/55	Minnesota	14
67	Dunn, Gary	DT	6-3/247	2	8/24/53	Miami	*0
27	Edwards, Glen	S	6-0/185	8	7/31/47	Florida A&M	13
17	Engles, Rick	P	5-11/180	3	8/18/54	Tulsa	*2
64	Furness, Steve	DT-DE	6-4/255	7	12/5/50	Rhode Island	14
10	Gerela, Roy	K	5-10/185	10	4/2/48	NMS	14
16	†Graff, Neil	QB	6-3/200	5	1/12/50	Wisconsin	4
75	Greene, Joe	DT	6-4/264	10	9/24/46	N. Tex. St.	13
68	Greenwood, L.C.	DE	6-6/250	10	9/8/46	Arkansas AM&N	9
84	Grossman, R.	TE	6-1/215	5	9/20/52	Temple	13
59	Ham, Jack	LB	6-1/225	8	12/23/48	Penn State	14
32	Harris, Franco	RB	6-2/225	7	3/7/50	Penn State	14
46	Harrison, R.	RB	5-11/220	5	1/9/50	Cincinnati	14
63	Holmes, Ernie	DT	6-3/260	7	7/11/48	Tex. Southern	13
55	Kolb, Jon	T	6-2/262	10	8/30/47	Okla. St.	13
15	Kruczek, Mike	QB	6-1/205	3	3/15/53	Boston Coll.	2
54	LaCrosse, Dave	LB	6-3/210	2	12/22/55	Wake Forest	14
58	Lambert, Jack	LB	6-4/220	5	7/8/52	Kent State	11
43	Lewis, Frank	WR	6-1/196	8	7/7/47	Grambling	10
28	Maxson, Alvin	RB	6-0/205	5	11/12/51	So. Methodist	7
72	Mullins, Gerry	G	6-3/244	8	8/24/49	USC	12
66	Petersen, Ted	C-T	6-5/244	2	2/7/55	Ea. Illinois	14
74	Pinney, Ray	T-C	6-4/240	3	6/29/54	Washington	14
85	Pough, Ernie	WR	6-1/174	3	5/17/52	Tex. Southern	14
29	Sexton, Brent	CB	6-1/190	2	7/23/53	Elon	11
31	Shell, Donnie	S	5-11/190	5	8/26/52	So. Car. St.	12
86	Smith, Jim	WR	6-2/205	2	7/20/55	Michigan	14
37	Smith, Lawrence	RB	5-10/193	2	9/12/54	Kansas	7
82	Stallworth, John	WR	6-2/183	5	7/15/52	Alabama A&M	14
18	Stoudt, Cliff	QB	6-4/218	2	3/27/55	Youngstown St.	*0
88	Swann, Lynn	WR	6-0/180	5	3/7/52	USC	14
24	Thomas, J.T.	CB	6-2/196	6	4/22/51	Florida St.	14
38	Thornton, Sidney	RB	5-11/230	2	9/2/54	N.W. Louisiana	13
51	Toews, Loren	LB	6-3/222	6	11/3/51	California	14
23	Wagner, Mike	S	6-1/200	8	6/22/48	W. Illinois	3
52	Webster, Mike	C	6-1/250	5	3/18/52	Wisconsin	14
78	White, Dwight	DE	6-4/255	8	7/30/49	Ea. Tex. St.	14
53	Winston, Dennis	LB	6-0/228	2	10/25/55	Arkansas	13

*Bell and Dunn missed '77 season due to injury; Stoudt was active for 11 games but did not play; Engles played 1 game with Seattle, 1 with Pittsburgh.

†Option playout; subject to developments.

Retired: Bobby Walden, John Fuqua

HOUSTON OILERS

1978 Schedule		
9/3	at Atlanta	1:00
9/10	at Kansas City	1:00
9/17	SAN FRAN.	1:00
9/24	LOS ANG.	1:00
10/1	at Cleveland	1:00
10/8	at Oakland	1:00
10/15	BUFFALO	1:00
10/23	at Pitts.(Mon.)	9:00
10/29	at Cincinnati	1:00
11/5	CLEVELAND	1:00
11/12	at New Eng.	1:00
11/20	MIAMI (Mon.)	8:00
11/26	CINCINNATI	1:00
12/3	PITTSBURGH	1:00
12/10	at New Orl.	1:00
12/17	SAN DIEGO	3:00

1977 Results		
9/18	JETS (+7½)	20-0
9/25	at G.B. (+3½)	16-10
10/2	at Miami (-4½)	7-27
10/9	PITTS. (-10)	27-10
10/16	CLEVE. (+2½)	23-24
10/23	at Pitts. (-11½)	10-27
10/30	at Cinn. (-7½)*	10-13
11/6	CHI. (-2)	47-0
11/13	at Oak. (-13)	29-34
11/20	at Sea. (+6½)	22-10
11/27	K. CITY (+9½)	34-20
12/4	DENVER (-1½)	14-24
12/11	at Cleve. (+3)	19-15
12/18	CINN. (-3½)	21-13

*Overtime

After a season split between frustration and competitive improvement, the Oilers' approach to the coming campaign will be marked by what the usually folksy Bum Phillips characterizes as a commitment to excellence.

Such slogan was adopted by Phillips in announcing that Houston had obtained the rights to the first pick in the college draft from Tampa Bay via the structuring of what could well be an even better bargain than the Cowboys' trade with Seattle a year ago.

And the intention is the same, even if Houston's overall talent-mix is not nearly strong enough to complement the ability of Earl Campbell the way Tony Dorsett's skilled addition culminated in the Cowboys winning of the Super Bowl.

As Phillips pointed out when the club announced the trade, "it takes a great running back to have a winning football team." Indeed it does, and when such a prospect happens to have superlative local box-office appeal it makes for happy coincidence. Campbell, who is practically a home grown talent, will help fill more than enough Astrodrome seats to offset the mega-dollar contractual demands which are sure to match the kind of deal negotiated by Mike Trope for such previous clientele as Chuck Muncie, Rick Bell and Tony Dorsett.

While the Oilers were happy enough with the first-year performances of Rob Carpenter and Tim Wilson, the opportunity to gain the services of a game-breaking runner with Campbell's talent could not be denied. Phillips plans to switch Carpenter to the FB spot with Campbell being given a sure-shot at the other starting berth, and by so doing, the Oiler coach is confident that the Houston running attack will become a solid force and especially effective when combined with the explosive potential of the team's passing game.

No wonder there is more than a touch of concern in places like Pittsburgh and Cincinnati over the continued improvement of the Oilers. After all, Houston came within a controversial officiating decision of representing the AFC's toughest division in the play-offs despite undergoing a massive expansion-like shuffling of personnel in which 28 new players were added to the team's 1977 roster. It is apparent that such concern is well placed.

QUARTERBACK: Now that Dante Pastorini is the happy recipient of a newly negotiated contract, the Oilers are confident that the coming season will mark a definitive turning point in his career. Dante, who was alternately explosive and rather self-destructive at times throughout the '77 season, is expected to improve his overall passing statistics to the kind of level associated with super-star performance. The numbers from a year ago—13 TDs opposed to 18 interceptions and a 53.0 completion percentage — were somewhat less. John Hadl has retired and the Oilers will be in the market for some veteran assistance to complement the potential of Texas Tech's Tommy Duniven who was picked up on waivers from the Bengals.

GRADE B

RUNNING BACK: The trade for the right to select Campbell gives the Oilers sudden strength in football's most attrition-prone areas. It also makes people like Don Hardeman and Tim Wilson very marketable commodities. Ronnie Coleman, the club's leading rusher (660 yards) and a dependable performer will alternate with last year's productive rookie, Rob Carpenter at FB while Campbell settles in at HB. Tim Wilson and veteran Fred Willis (if healthy) will give Phillips excellent depth.

GRADE A

RECEIVERS: Ken Burrough reminds one of Otis Taylor in that each talent's were denied explosive fruition because of a failure to exploit such skills fully. With the Oiler passing attack stressing patterns at the expense of straight away speed, Burrough was limited to 43 catches for 8 TDs, yet still managed to forge a most impressive mark of 19.0 yards per reception. Billy Johnson, whose presence in the Oiler regular lineup was restricted by design because of a need to showcase his talents on special teams, contributed a 20.3 average on 20 catches and 3 TDs. Eddie Foster, an eighth round pick from Houston, earned semi-regular status while Mike Barber remains the starting TE. With departure of Jimmy Giles to Tampa, the club is in need of quality reserve help both inside and outside.

GRADE B+

OFFENSIVE LINE: Oilers have improved here despite losing Morris Towns, last year's number one choice from Missouri who was compared to Marvin Powell and Warren Bryant before falling victim to the injured reserve list. A shakeup of some of the veterans ended with Greg Sampson, Elbert Drungo and Kevin Hunt bulwarking the interior of the club's pass protection. A healthy Towns will make the tackle position even stronger. Carl Mauck is consistent performer at center. Rookie surprise was George Reihner who managed to start at left guard. Ed Fisher and Conway Hayman are capable replacements.

GRATE B-

DEFENSIVE LINE: This area was somewhat in state of flux at the end of the '77 schedule. Elvin Bethea was slow to round into his accustomed form and when he did get untracked he was lost for the season with a broken arm. Curley Culp, injured off and on, played up to his pro bowl reputation but it will cost the Oilers heavily to keep Culp financially happy. Still the premier NG in the league. Ken Kennard, James Young and Ernest Kirk give Oilers some talented youth while former Saints Steve Baumgartner and Andy Dorris were picked up to lend reserve experience. Oiler pass rush stats dropped sharply from 50 sacks to 32. However, turnover ratio increased dramatically with hard-hitting defense against the run.

GRADE A-

LINEBACKERS: Still the strength of the Oiler defense. Robert Brazile is the NFC's premier OLB and is equally adept at forcing the run and frustrating the passing intentions of wary quarterbacks. Ted Washington is a marvelously constructed specimen who handles the run with a great deal of physical skill. Greg Bingham and Steve Kiner are the interior bulwarks of the 3-4 defense that has limited opposing running attacks to a 3.5 average and 128 yards per game. Club is sorely in need of qualified depth.

GRADE A-

SECONDARY: Difficult problems can be found here. Zeke Moore and Willie Alexander share the cornerback assignments and neither has played up to previous form. Mike Reinfeldt (former Raider) led the team with 5 interceptions while rookie Bill Currier took over the SS assignment. Mike Weger and C.L. Whittington finished the

season on injured reserve while possible back-ups include Kurt Knoff, Rich Sowells and Greg Stemrick.

GRADE C

KICKING GAME: Failure in this vital area of play cost the Oilers at least two games. Typical of season was failure of reserve kicker Ted Thompson to take his kicking shoe to Oakland. This lapse cost the Oilers a chance to spring a major upset. Tom Dempsey took over from a disappointing Toni Fritsch late in the season while Cliff Parsley, a rookie obtained from the Saints, did well enough as the regular punter. Phillips would like to trade for Chiefs' Jerrell Wilson. Billy Johnson led the NFL in punt returns with a 15.4 average and totaled over 1,100 yards in both phases of return work.

GRADE B

COACHING: Bum Phillips gets the job done. Three years ago he was credited with simple approach that treated players as men. Now some of those men are unhappy with the team's rush to youth (28 new players last year) but winning solves a multitude of problems. Oiler staff is dominated by former Jets/Saints combination of Ken Shipp and Eddie Biles.

GRADE B

FRONT OFFICE: Pat Peppler making presence felt as Oiler personnel chief and handled negotiations that led to bargain acquisition of Campbell. Team has been reshaped over past three seasons with reliance on draft key to the club's resurgence. Oilers have been resourceful in finding free agents (14 last year) who can play. Phillips has title of G.M. and gets final say in all trade matters, but administrative side of job handled by Peppler who has had previous successful tours with the Packers and Dolphins.

GRADE B-

PREDICTION: If the Steelers and Bengals aren't careful, the Oilers will wind up as divisional champions instead of spoilers. Schedule will work against Houston. In addition to home and home series with Pittsburgh and Cincinnati, the Oilers will have to contend with the likes of Miami, Los Angeles, New England and Oakland.

Ted Washington is about to greet the quarterback.

HOUSTON OILERS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Ronnie Coleman	185	660	3.6	22	5
Rob Carpenter	144	652	4.5	77	1

INTERCEPTIONS	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Mike Reinfeldt	5	78	15.6	30	0

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Billy Johnson	35	8	539	15.4	87	2

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
D. Pastorini	319	169	53.0	1987	13	18	5.6

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Ken Burrough	43	816	19.0	85	8

KICK-OFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Billy Johnson	25	630	25.2	76	1

PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
Cliff Parsley	77	55	39.4	31.8

SCORING	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Toni Fritsch	19	20	12	16	55

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
19	Alexander, W.	CB	6-3/195	8	9/29/41	Alcorn St.	14
83	Anderson, W.	WR	6-2/195	2	7/3/55	W. Va. St.	8
86	Barber, M.	TE	6-3/235	2	6/4/53	La. Tech	13
63	Baumgartner, S.	DE	6-7/275	5	3/26/51	Purdue	*11
65	Bethea, E.	DE	6-2/255	11	3/1/46	N.C. A&T	9
54	†Bingham, G.	LB	6-1/230	6	3/13/51	Purdue	14
52	Brazile, R.	LB	6-4/238	4	2/7/53	Jackson St.	14
00	Burrough, K.	WR	6-3/210	9	6/14/48	Tex. Southern	14
26	Carpenter, R.	RB	6-1/214	2	4/20/55	Miami, Ohio	11
58	Carter, D.	C	6-2/225	2	11/27/53	W. Kentucky	14
47	Coleman, R.	RB	5-11/198	5	7/9/51	Alabama A&M	14
78	Culp, C.	MG	6-1/265	11	10/10/46	Arizona St.	14
20	Currier, B.	S	6-0/190	2	1/5/55	So. Carolina	14
23	†Dempsey, T.	K	6-1/260	9	1/12/47	Palomar Jr. Col.	5
69	†Dorris, Andy	DE	6-4/240	6	8/11/51	New Mex. St.	*9
75	†Drungo, E.	G	6-5/265	10	4/30/43	Tenn-St.	14
11	Duniven, T.	QB	6-3/210	2	5/20/54	Texas Tech	1
60	Fisher, Ed	G-C	6-3/250	5	5/31/49	Arizona St.	14
89	Foster, E.	WR	5-10/185	2	6/5/54	Houston	14
16	Fritsch, Toni	K	5-7/195	7	7/10/45	No College	8
82	†Garrison, G.	WR	6-1/194	13	1/21/44	S.Diego St.	2
88	Giles, J.	TE	6-3/225	2	11/8/54	Alcorn St.	14
30	Hardeman, D.	RB	6-2/235	4	8/13/52	Texas A&I	12
70	Hayman, C.	T	6-3/260	5	1/9/49	Delaware	13
72	Hunt, Kevin	T	6-5/260	8	10/29/48	Doane, Neb.	14
15	Johnson, Al	S	6-0/200	7	6/17/50	Cincinnati	14
84	Johnson, B.	WR-KR	5-9/170	5	1/21/52	Widener	14
71	Kennard, Ken	MG	6-2/245	2	10/4/54	Angelo St.	14
57	Kiner, S.	LB	6-1/225	8	6/12/47	Tenn.	14
79	Kirk,E.	DE	6-2/265	2	4/14/52	Howard Pyne	14
25	Knoff, Kurt	S	6-2/188	3	4/6/54	Kansas	3
64	Knox, Ernest	DE	6-2/245	2	9/20/52	SMU	*0
55	Mauck, Carl	C	6-4/250	10	7/7/47	So. Illinois	14
22	Moore, Zeke	CB	6-3/195	12	12/2/43	Lincoln	14
18	Parsley, C.	P	6-1/211	2	12/26/54	Okla. St.	14
7	Pastorini, D.	QB	6-3/205	8	5/26/49	Santa Clara	14
64	Reihner, G.	G	6-4/263	2	4/27/55	Penn St.	13
37	†Reinfeldt, M.	S	6-2/195	3	5/6/53	Wis.-Mil.	14
73	†Sampson, G.	T	6-6/270	7	12/25/50	Stanford	14
74	Simon, Bobby	T-G	6-3/252	3	12/13/52	Grambling	*0
29	Sowells, R.	CB-S	6-0/185	8	10/27/48	Alcorn St.	10
27	Stemrick, G.	CB	5-11/185	4	10/25/51	Colorado St.	9
53	Stringer, A.	LB	6-1/223	2	1/30/54	Ball St.	14
51	†Thompson,T.	LB	6-1/220	4	1/17/53	SMU	14
76	Towns, M.	T	6-4/275	2	1/10/54	Missouri	1
31	Voight, M.	RB	6-0/214	2	2/28/54	UNC	14
59	Washington, T.	LB	6-1/245	6	2/16/48	Miss. Valley	14
28	Weger, Mike	S	6-2/200	11	10/2/45	Bowl.Gr.	11
44	†Willis, Fred	RB	6-0/205	8	11/9/47	BC	*0
38	†Whittington, CL	S	6-1/200	5	8/1/52	Prairie View	*0
45	Wilson, T.	RB	6-3/220	2	1/14/54	Maryland	10
77	Young, J.	DE	6-2/260	2	7/8/50	Tex. Southern	13

*Knox, Simon, Willis and Whittington missed '77 season due to injury; Baumgartner played 5 games with New Orleans, 6 with Houston; Dorris played 4 games with Seattle, 5 with Houston.

†Option playout; subject to developments. Retired—John Hadl.

BENGALS CINCINNATI BENGALS

1978 Schedule		
9/3	KANSAS CITY	1:00
9/10	at Cleveland	1:00
9/17	PITTS.	1:00
9/24	NW ORLNS	1:00
10/1	at San Fran.	1:00
10/9	at Miami(Mon)	8:30
10/15	NEW ENG.	1:00
10/22	at Buffalo	1:00
10/29	HOUSTON	1:00
11/5	at San Diego	1:00
11/13	OAK. (Mon.)	9:00
11/19	at Pittsburgh	4:00
11/26	at Houston	1:00
12/3	ATLANTA	1:00
12/11	at L.A. (Mon.)	6:00
12/17	CLEVELAND	1:00

1977 Results		
9/18	CLEVE. (+11½)	3-13
9/25	SEA. (+20)	42-20
10/2	at S.D. (+6½)	3-24
10/9	at Gr. Bay (+9)	17-14
10/17	at Pitts. (-3)	14-20
10/23	DEN. (-2½)	13-24
10/30	HOUS. (+7½)*	13-10
11/6	at Cleve. (-3½)	10-7
11/13	at Minn. (-3)	10-42
11/20	MIA. (-1½)	23-17
11/27	GIANTS (+10)	30-13
12/4	at K. C. (+7)	20-7
12/10	PITTS. (-2½)	17-10
12/18	at Hous. (+3½)	13-21

*Overtime

Bill 'Tiger' Johnson and the people who play for him and the Cincinnati Bengals can be excused if they spent the off-season looking over their shoulders. After all, they have shared the dubious distinction of having watched the playoffs at home for the past two seasons after laboring through the fall with visions of representing the NFL's toughest neighborhood in post-season competition.

In 1976 the Bengals came within two games of winning the division title but crumbled in the face of their nemesis from Pittsburgh. Both the players and the management vowed they would not be victimized by the Steelers in December of 1977. They were right.

This time it was the Oilers. After having knocked off the Steelers in an eagerly anticipated snow-bound rematch in Cincinnati, the Bengals arrived in Houston needing only to outlast the Oilers to ensure acceptance of the AFC Central Invitation to Pete Rozelle's holiday party. It wasn't to be. The Oilers throttled the Bengal offense and shredded the Cincy defense enroute to knocking Johnson and company out of action.

What made the 1977 collapse even more difficult to accept was the fact that methodical drafting of premium talent had seemingly solved the club's most pressing needs. But injuries and inconsistency served as a frustrating counterpart to the infusion of talent and the best laid plans of Paul Brown and Bill Johnson went awry.

Individual breakdowns and sudden inconsistency effected the performance of both the offense and the defense. Ken Anderson, plagued by knee troubles and an assortment of bruises, suffered through a very uncharacteristic period of inaccuracy. And, when Anderson did manage to play up to past form, his receivers seemed unable to catch the ball when it mattered most. Defensively, the pass rush which was supposed to be vastly improved with the addition of top rookies Eddie Edwards and Wilson Whitley, suffered a drastic decline in the unit's ability to get to opposing quarterbacks. The primary cause in this drop of efficiency (25 traps compared to 46 the year before) could be traced to the disappearance of Coy Bacon, the former Charger who spent most of his time bitching about the coaching instead of nailing people like Terry Bradshaw, Dan Pastorini and Brian Sipe with the frequency (23 sacks were credited to Bacon in his first season with the Bengals) he exhibited in 1976.

Consequently, the Bengals and their coach would appear to be squarely on the spot and if, for some reason the team manages to squander yet another late-season lead, Paul Brown and the Cincinnati fans will be most unhappy.

QUARTERBACK: It was a Jekyll/Hyde season for Ken Anderson. After throwing just two TDs against eight interceptions in the first six games of the season, Anderson reverted to his normal accurate self and proved to be one of the hottest QBs in the league across the second half of the season. Kenny finished with a total fo 2,145 yards. His completion percentage, unsually somewhere at the top of the AFC QB ratings, dropped sharply (for him) to just 51.1%. John Reaves, dissatisfied with the way he was utilized when Anderson was injured, proved to be consistenly inconsistent. Yet the Bengals are confident the former Eagle number one selection can provide better than adequate back-up insurance. Mike Wells, a former third-stringer with the Vikings, is considered to be a qualified reserve.

GRADE A-

RUNNING BACK: Frustration seemed to be the name of the game here also. Every time the Bengal backfield picture seemed ready to develop, something negative would occur. Ohio State combination of Archie Griffin and Pete Johnson shared bulk of full-time work and proved to be club's most effective pairing. Boobie Clark remains unhappy and would appear to be heading elsewhere provided Paul Brown can obtain someone of comparable value. Lenvill Elliott and Tony Davis provide talented depth. Club could use additional outside speed.

GRADE B

RECEIVERS: With Issac Curtis idled mid-way through the campaign with knee problems that ultimately resulted in surgery, Billy Brooks, a first round pick in 1976, blossomed into a dependable receiver and Anderson's favorite target. Brooks paced the team with 39 receptions and an avg. of 19.8 per catch. The former Oklahoma speedster was on the receiving end of four TDs, one of which resulted in a 94 yard score. Pat McInally and John McDaniel offer solid support outside while the TE spot would appear to be up for grabs where Mike Cobb (one of the Bengals three first round selections in 1977) will have to improve his hands to edge out either Jim Corbett or Glenn Walker, both of whom will also be entering their sophomore campaign. If Curtis is healthy, this area will be strength of the offense.

GRADE A

OFFENSIVE LINE: Some changes due here. John Shinners will be among the missing. His duties as messenger guard will be assumed by Greg Fairchild who will alternate with Glenn Bujnoch. Vernon Holland will need help if he is unable to rebound from nagging injuries while Rufus Mayes must work hard to maintain control of the other starting tackle berth. Bob Johnson continues to anchor the line at center with Dave Lapham and Ron Hunt as the chief reserves. Bengals would dearly love to lure last year's fourth round gamble, Mike Wilson, back across the border. Wilson, considered by many scouts to be one of the premier offensive linemen of the '77 college crop, signed with the CFL's Toronto entry and earned all Canadian honors. Age and injuries make this area key priority for Bengals' '78 draft.

GRADE B

DEFENSIVE LINE: Somewhat of a riddle. The pass rush was supposed to have been revitalized by addition of Edwards and Whitley. It may have looked flashy but lacked substance. Club had just 12 sacks in first half of the season before Eddie Edwards overcame mysterious mid-season chest ailment and brought renewed vigor to the Bengals sack attack. Johnson called Edwards 'the finest rookie defensive tackle' he had ever seen. Wilson Whitley did effective job against the run and excellent blend of quickness and strength should make him tough to block on third and long situations. Coy Bacon spent his season bitching and moaning about his coaches and teammates and seemed to be a decisive factor. Gary Burley was vastly improved in his third season and should maintain starting berth. Team is in need of qualified reserve help, with Ken Johnson the only veteran name on the depth chart.

GRADE B

LINEBACKERS: If Bill Johnson opts for switch to 3-4 alignments, the Bengals would make full use of underrated defensive strength. Jim LeClair does better than average at MLB. Reggie Williams is a hard-hitting big play performer from the Ivy (Dartmouth) League. Williams is also getting the hang of quick drops to improve his pass coverage reactions. Bo Harris is a cut above average on the other side. Glenn Cameron, a former number one pick from Florida, enjoyed several fine performances as number one reserve and would give Johnson his fourth starter. Ray Phillips and Chris Devlin made solid contributions on the special teams with aggressive tackling and pursuit.

GRADE B-

SECONDARY: Classy and qualified unit. Lemar Parrish played up to pro-bowl reputation despite assorted complaints and nagging injuries. Ken Riley (41 career interceptions) is somewhat more quiet but just as effective. Pair give Bengals solid support at CB position. Tommy Casanova is another pro-bowl performer when not engaged in practicing medicine while Marvin Cobb handles the other starting safety spot. Jerry Anderson, a highly regarded second-year prospect from Oklahoma, is expected to parlay last year's experience into strong bid for regular assignment. Team has trio of special team head hunters, Melvin Morgan, Scott Perry and Louis Breeden.

GRADE A

KICKING GAME: Chris Bahr has done as well as his potential indicated and has a strong leg. Bahr is especially accurate in short and mid-range situations. Pat McInally does fine job as punter and gets better than average hang time as well as surprising distance. Bengals feel he is worthy challenger to Ray Guy as game's premier punter. McInally trailed Guy in overall average (41.8 to 43.3,) but former Harvard stalwart, who also doubled as college receiver, put the ball out of bounds inside the 20-yard line a total of 16 times enroute to compiling a net average of 36.4 which was the best in the NFL in '77. Tony Davis and Willie Shelby (but only when he hangs onto the football) provide potential edge in battle for field position.

GRADE A-

COACHING: Bill Johnson, who spent the early part of the '77 campaign on the hot seat because of the Bengals inconsistent play, seemed set after the Bengals clawed the Steelers. But then came the crushing loss to the Oilers. Consequently, the pressure will be on throughout 1978. Johnson has fine staff with trio of former head coaches—Charlie Winner and Mike McCormick—ably supported by the likes of Boyd Dowler and Chuck Studley.

GRADE B+

FRONT OFFICE: A Brown family affair. G.M. Paul is still franchise potentate with sons Pete and Mike running the personnel operation. Club has done exceptionally well in past three drafts and leads the league with total of 26 players added to the roster via the selection process.

GRADE A

Boobie Clark lost starting FB slot to Pete Johnson.

PREDICTION: A year ago the Bengals seemed to be a team whose time had come. But with opportunity missed again, and continued improvement upon the part of the Oilers and the expected resurgence of the Steelers, the guess here is that the Bengals will slip to third place in the NFL's most competitive division. Schedule won't help either. In addition to divisional contests, Bengals will face Rams, Raiders, Dolphins and Patriots.

CINCINNATI BENGALS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Pete Johnson	153	585	3.8	65	4
Archie Griffin	137	549	4.0	31	0

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Lemar Parrish	3	95	31.7	47	1
Reggie Williams	3	67	22.3	54	1

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Tony Davis	19	6	220	11.6	70	0

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% PCT
K. Anderson	323	166	51.4	2145	11	11	3.4

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Billy Brooks	39	772	19.8	94	4

KICK-OFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Willie Shelby	19	403	21.2	38	0

PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
Pat McInally	67	67	41.8	36.4

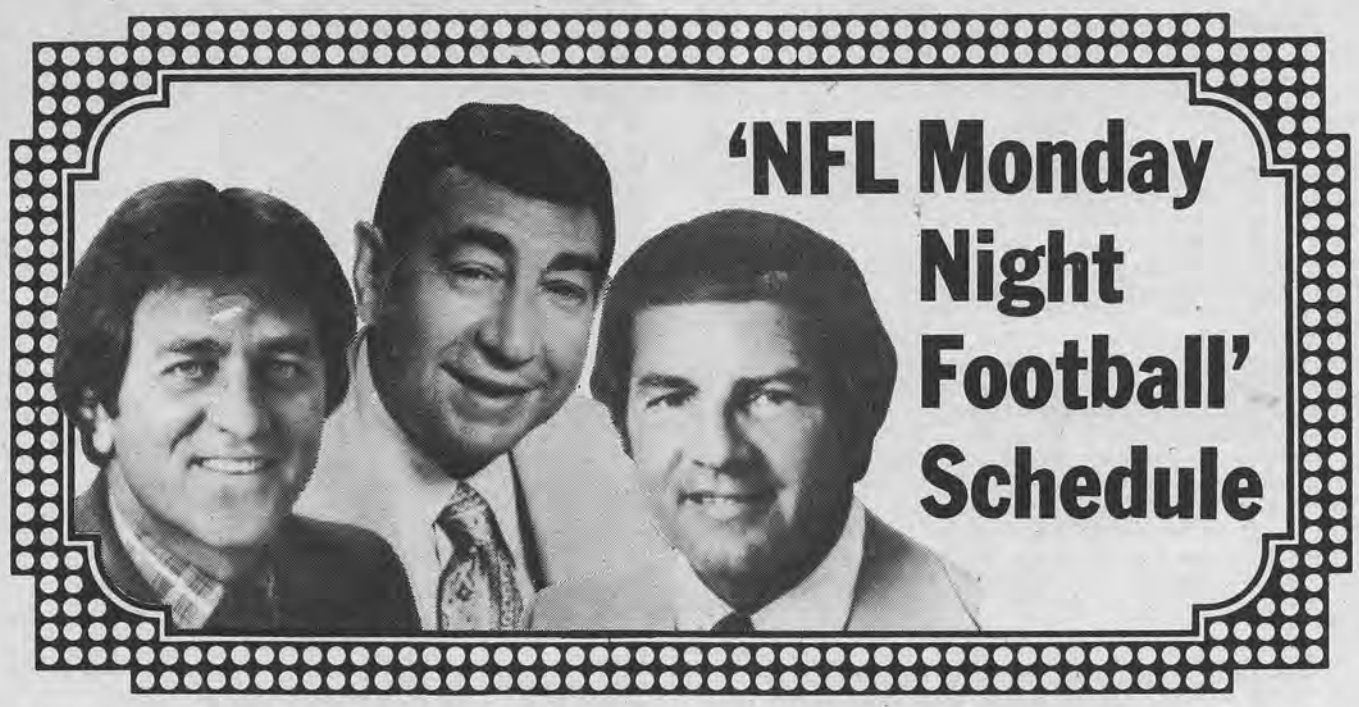
SCORING	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Chris Bahr	25	26	19	27	82

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
31	Anderson, J.	S	5-11/187	2	10/27/53	Oklahoma	14
14	Anderson, K.	QB	6-2/210	8	2/15/49	Augustana,Ill.	14
79	Bacon, Coy	DE	6-4/265	11	8/30/42	Jackson St.	12
10	Bahr, Chris	K	5-9/168	3	2/3/53	Penn St.	14
82	Brooks, Billy	WR	6-3/202	3	7/20/53	Oklahoma	14
74	Bujnoch, Glenn	G	6-5/251	3	12/20/53	Texas A&M	13
67	Burley, Gary	DE	6-3/265	3	12/8/52	Pittsburgh	14
50	Cameron, G.	LB	6-1/217	4	2/21/53	Florida	14
37	Casanova, Tom	S	6-2/196	7	7/29/50	La. State	11
42	Clark, Boobie	RB	6-2/242	6	11/8/50	Beth.-C'kman	10
24	Cobb, Marvin	S	6-0/191	4	8/6/53	So. Calif.	14
89	Cobb, Mike	Te	6-5/248	2	12/20/55	Mich. St.	13
81	Corbett, Jim	TE	6-3/214	2	2/22/55	Pittsburgh	14
85	Curtis, Isaac	WR	6-1/192	6	10/20/50	San Diego St.	8
25	Davis, Tony	RB	5-10/210	3	1/21/53	Nebraska	14
51	Devlin, Chris	LB	6-2/228	3	11/22/53	Penn St.	*0
73	Edwards,Eddie	DT	6-4/256	2	4/25/54	Miami	12
36	Elliott,L.	RB	6-0/208	6	9/2/51	No. Missouri St.	14
63	Fairchild, Greg	G-T	6-4/257	3	3/10/54	Tulsa	13
45	Griffin, A.	RB	5-9/193	3	8/24/54	Ohio St.	12
53	Harris, Bo	LB	6-3/221	4	1/16/53	La. State	14
83	Holden, S.	WR-KR	6-1/200	6	8/21/51	Arizona	6
76	Holland, V.	T	6-5/265	8	6/27/48	Tenn. St.	14
72	Hunt, Ron	T	6-6/255	3	1/27/55	Oregon	13
54	Johnson, B.	C	6-5/256	11	8/19/46	Tennessee	14
80	Johnson, K.	DE	6-6/258	8	2/12/47	Indiana	10
46	Johnson, P.	RB	6-0/240	2	3/22/54	Ohio St.	14
62	Lapham, Dave	G	6-4/259	5	6/24/52	Syracuse	13
55	LeClair, J.	LB	6-3/238	7	1030/50	No. Dakota	14
71	Mayes, Rufus	T	6-5/256	10	12/5/47	Ohio St.	12
86	McDaniel, J.	WR	6-1/197	5	12/23/51	Lincoln	14
87	McInally, P.	WR	6-6/210	3	5/7/53	Harvard	14
21	Morgan, M.	CB	6-0/186	3	3/31/53	Miss. Valley	12
20	Parrish, L.	CB	5-10/183	9	12/13/47	Lincoln	11
32	Perry, S.	CB	6-0/182	3	3/11/54	Williams	9
59	Phillips, R.	LB	6-3/221	2	3/18/54	Nebraska	14
60	†Pritchard, R.	LB	6-1/226	10	4/2/47	Arizona St.	6
11	Reaves, J.	QB	6-3/210	7	3/2/50	Florida	9
13	Riley, Ken	CB	6-1/185	10	8/6/47	Fla. A&M	14
30	Shelby, W.	RB	5-11/198	3	7/24/53	Alabama	14
88	Walker, R.	TE	6-3/237	2	5/28/55	UCLA	6
15	Wells, Mike	QB	6-5/225	4	6/18/51	Illinois	7
75	Whitley, W.	DT	6-3/264	2	4/28/55	Houston	13
57	Williams, R.	LB	6-1/228	3	9/19/54	Dartmouth	14

*Delvin missed '77 season due to injury.
†Option Playout; subject to development.

Retired—Bob Trumpy.



'NFL Monday Night Football' Schedule

One of the most impressive schedules in the history of "ABC's NFL Monday Night Football" and the debut of a new series of prime time football specials that include rematches of the teams in the 1977 American Conference and National Conference Championship Games were announced jointly by Roone Arledge, President of ABC News and Sports, and Pete Rozelle, Commissioner of the National Football League.

"ABC's NFL Monday Night Football," increased this year from 14 to 16 games due to the expanded NFL schedule, makes its season premiere in Dallas on Labor Day, Sept. 4, with a spectacular matchup between the Super Bowl champion Dallas Cowboys and the high-powered AFC's Baltimore Colts.

The new series of additional prime time games—three on Sunday nights and one on Thursday night—bows Sunday, Sept. 24, at 9:00 p.m., EDT, with the Oakland Raiders hosting the New England Patriots. The other "special" games will pit Minnesota at Dallas in the NFC title game rematch, Thursday, Oct. 26 (8:30 p.m., EDT); Pittsburgh at Los Angeles on Sunday, Nov. 12 (8:00 p.m., EST); and Denver at Oakland, in the AFC title game rematch, Sunday, Dec. 3 (9:00 p.m., EST).

In this ninth of NFL Football on ABC, all regular season Monday Night Football games will start at 9:00 p.m., New York time, with the exception of the Oct. 9 matchup—Cincinnati at Miami—which will start at 8:30 p.m., EDT. The network will televise 20 games compared to 14 last year.

Seventeen of the 20 ABC prime time games will spotlight NFL playoff teams of a year ago. In seven of those 20 games, the playoff teams will be in head to head competition. All eight playoff teams—Dallas, Baltimore, Denver, Minnesota, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, Oakland and Chicago—will be seen three times during the season. So will three other major contenders—New England, Cincinnati and Miami. Washington and Houston will be seen twice, Atlanta, San Francisco and San Diego once.

Of the 16 teams featured on the ABC schedule, all but one finished 1977 with a .500 won-lost record or better. And the one exception, the San Francisco 49ers, will be vastly improved by the addition of O.J. Simpson. The 49ers will host the 9-5 Pittsburgh Steelers on Monday, Nov. 27.

Mr. Arledge noted: "This is clearly the most attractive pro football schedule in the history of network television, and the addition of a special package will add to the national phenomenon that 'ABC's NFL Monday Night Football' has become. Last year, Monday Night Football achieved a record rating of 21.5 and a record share of audience of 37 percent. Over 43 million people watched some portion of each game. We're confident that we'll be bringing the viewers the best NFL competition every Monday, and on our special nights the matchups will be of outstanding quality."

The same broadcast team that helped produce the record ratings for "ABC's NFL Monday Night Football"—Howard Cosell, Frank Gifford and Don Meredith—will be coming back to the booth. During the course of the 1977 series, play-by-play commentator Gifford won an Emmy Award as Outstanding Sports Personality and Chet Forte won another for Outstanding Directing of Sports Programming for his work on "ABC's NFL Monday Night Football."

"ABC's NFL Monday Night Football" series has its earliest start in history, and it concludes) for the first time ever—with the final game of the regular NFL season. In recent years, the Monday Night series closed out with a Saturday night game. Now the final NFL regular-season date is Monday, Dec. 18, with New England at Miami, a game that could have a vital bearing on the race for the AFC East title.

The regular season schedule for ABC's package of NFL games, Eastern Daylight times until Oct. 29 and Eastern Standard thereafter, and won-lost season records in parentheses, is as follows:

Sept. 4, 9:00—Baltimore (10-4) at Dallas (12-2)
Sept. 11, 9:00—Denver (12-2) at Minnesota (9-5)
Sept. 18, 9:00—Baltimore (10-4) at New England (9-5)
Sunday, Sept. 24, 9:00—New Englad (9-5) at Oakland (11-3)
Sept. 25, 9:00—Minnesota (9-5) at Chicago (9-5)
Oct. 2 9:00—Dallas (12-2) at Washington (9-5)
Oct. 9, 8:30—Cincinnati (8-6) at Miami (10-4)
Oct. 16, 9:00—Chicago (9-5) at Denver (12-2)
Oct. 23, 9:00—Houston (8-6) at Pittsburgh (9-5)
Thursday, Oct. 26, 8:30—Minnesota (9-5) at Dallas (12-2)
Oct. 30, 9:00—Los Angeles (10-4) at Atlanta (7-7)
Nov. 6, 9:00—Washington (9-5) at Baltimore (10-4)
Sunday, Nov. 12, 8:00—Pittsburgh (9-5) at Los Angeles (10-4)
Nov. 13, 9:00—Oakland (11-3) at Cincinnati (8-6)
Nov. 20, 9:00—Miami (10-4) at Houston (8-6)
Nov. 27, 9:00—Pittsburgh (9-5(at San Francisco (5-9)
Sunday, Dec. 3, 9:00—Denver (12-2) at Oakland (11-3)
Dec. 4, 9:00—Chicago (9-5) at San Diego (7-7)
Dec. 11, 9:00—Cincinnati (8-6) at Los Angeles (10-4)
Dec. 18, 9:00—New England (9-5) at Miami (10-4)

Last year's playoff teams were NFC divisional winners Dallas, Minnesota and Los Angeles, plus wild card entry Chicago, and AFC divisional winners Denver, Pittsburgh, and Baltimore plus wild card entry Oakland.

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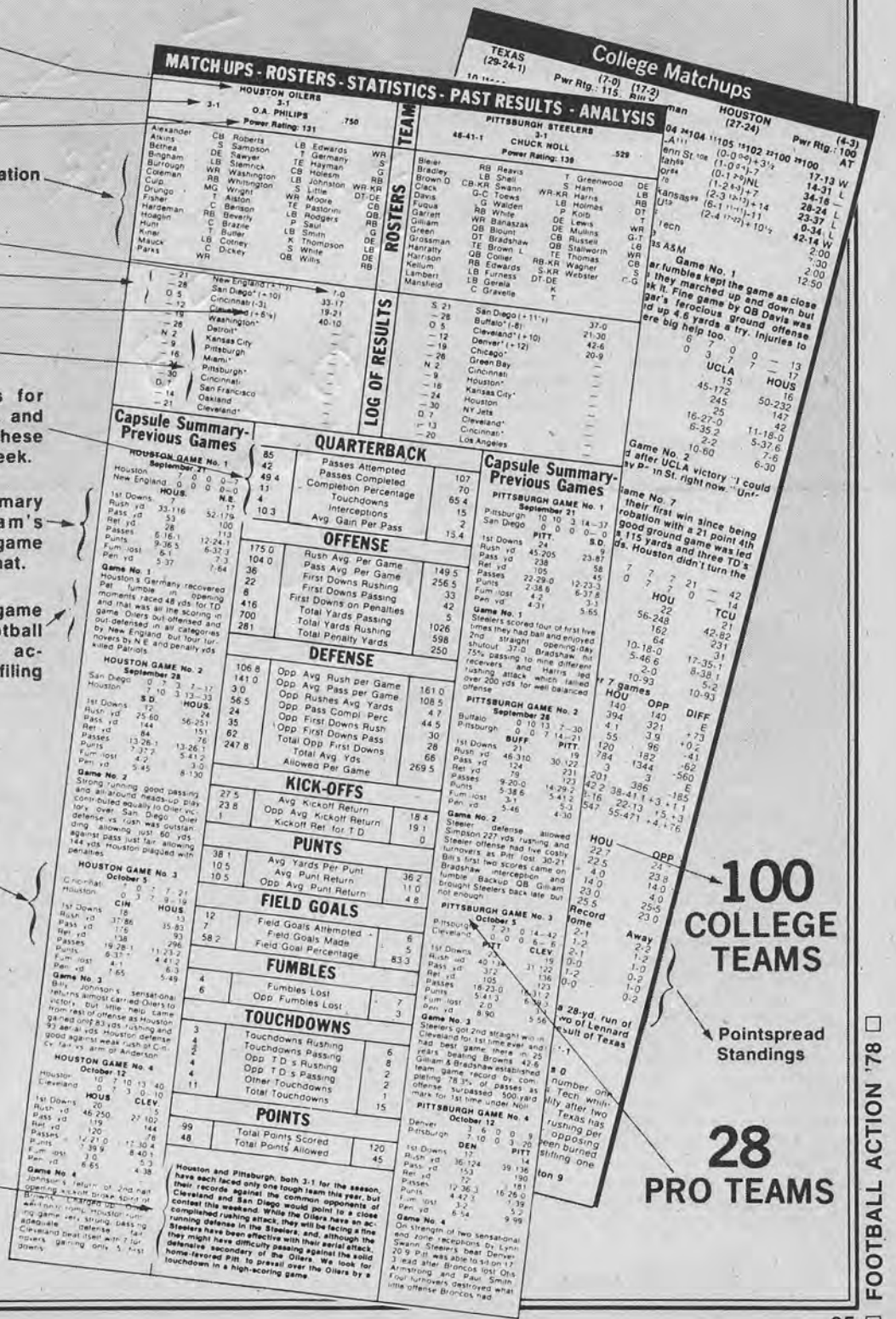
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Punt return, kickoff return and intercepted pass yardage
Number of punts and average
Number of penalties and yards penalized
Game outlook: analysis of each team's strengths and weaknesses, and prediction of the completion and outcome of game
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College Matchups
100 COLLEGE TEAMS
28 PRO TEAMS
Pointspread Standings

Monday Night Teams Mashed Sunday

By J. WILLIAM ROTH

Monday Night Football, ABC-TV's contribution to divorce in America, continued to do more than anger housewives and provide a forum for Howard Cosell's vocabulary, Frank Gifford's charm and Don Meredith's homespun wit. Once again, for the third year in-a-row, Monday Night Football has produced a winning angle for the conscientious and astute grid bettor.

Of the 26 teams that were involved in Monday night games last year, only eight of them were able to beat the spread the following Sunday while 15 lost and there were three pushes. This is down some from 1976 when only six of 26 Monday night teams won the following Sunday (with 19 defeats and one push) and from 1975 when seven Monday nighters won, 18 lost and one pushed.

The three-year record of Monday night teams the following Sunday is as follows:

Year	Won	Lost	Push	Pct
1975	7	18	1	.720
1976	6	19	1	.760
1977	8	15	3	.652
Totals	21	52	5	.712

The reason for such an overwhelming lack of success the following Sunday for Monday night teams is strictly a matter of timing. Teams that play Monday night have one and one-half less days to prepare for the next game and one and one-half less days to rest and recuperate. This is especially true for a team that must return home after a Monday night encounter. This team will probably depart in the middle of the night and not arrive home until the following morning. When time changes are added (East to West or vice versa), the problem is accentuated. Meanwhile, the team that has played Sunday afternoon has Sunday night and Monday off before preparations begin on Tuesday. The Monday night team takes Tuesday off and does not begin its preparations until Wednesday. This team has lost a day of preparation and a half a day of rest.

The Monday night syndrome began to reap dividends almost immediately in 1977. The first weekend produced a loss (in other words, the Monday night team was defeated) and a push. Pittsburgh, which had defeated San Francisco on Monday, was getting 2½ points from Oakland but it wasn't enough as the Raiders won, 16-7. San Francisco, however, was able to achieve a push, losing 19-15 to Miami with the spread favoring the Dolphins by four.

After a thrilling overtime game in which Cleveland beat New England on a Don Cockroft field goal, neither team was in emotional or physical shape for its next encounter. The Browns were getting four points from the Steelers but the Pitt-men easily covered, 28-14. The Patriots had it even worse. New England was a 13½ point choice over the New York Jets but lost outright, 30-27.

The following six weeks resulted in splits as one Monday night team won and the other lost. After beating Kansas City on Monday, the Raiders covered the 9½ point spread against the Browns, 26-10. Kansas City, however, was routed by Denver, 23-7, a 10½ point impost not helping the Chiefs.

The next weekend, Chicago got 6½ from Minnesota and lucked out when the game went into overtime tied at 16. Minnesota scored an OT touchdown but, of course, couldn't kick the extra point (any score ends the game). This quirk of fate allowed the Bears to beat the Monday night angle. Five nights earlier the Bears had surprised the Rams. But L.A., which had to travel back from Chicago, couldn't cover an 11½ point spread against New Orleans, winning 14-7.

Pittsburgh, which had defeated Cincinnati Monday night, covered against Houston but the Bengals bowed to the Broncos.

L.A. again met defeat when the Rams lost outright to the Saints but the Vikings, the other Monday night team, covered against Atlanta.

Splits occured the next two weeks before St. Louis and Dallas both lost after their Monday night encounter. The Cards were 10-point choices against the Eagles but had no rally to avoid a loss, 21-16. Dallas was a two point underdog to Pittsburgh but needed more than that as the soon-to-be Super Bowl champions were embarrassed, 28-13.

Washington and Green Bay were the Monday night combatants the following week, and both did better than expected. The Redskins played Dallas tough and lost 14-7, beating the spread by a half-point. The Packers got seven points from the Vikings and salvaged a push, 13-6.

Oakland thrashed Buffalo the following Monday but neither team covered on Sunday. The Raiders were favored over the Rams but lost outright, while the Bills dropped a 10-0 decision to the Skins, getting six points.

The next week, the same thing happened. Miami, fresh from a Monday night defeat of Baltimore, lost to New England 14-10. The Dolphs were getting 3½. The Colts were 15 over hapless Detroit but lost outright, 13-10.

The final week of the season was only the second in which a Monday night team didn't taste defeat. Dallas, a 42-35 victor over San Francisco, covered against Denver while the 49ers gained a push with Green Bay.

Nevertheless, the system proved quite successful again over the long haul. In fact, had you bet $100 against every Monday night team, you would have realized a modest—yet consistent—profit of $6230 over the 13 week period.

MONDAY NIGHT GAME	FOLLOWING SUNDAY GAME	RESULT VS. SPREAD
Pitts. 27 San Fran. 0	Oak. (-2½) 16, Pitts. 7 Miami (-4) 19, San Fran. 15	lost push
Cleve. 30/ot New Eng. 27	Pitts. (-4) 28, Cleve. 14 N.Y. Jets (+13½) 30, N.E.. 27	lost lost
Oakland 37 Kan. City 28	Oak. (-9½) 26, Cleve. 10 Den. (-10½) 23, Kan. City 7	won lost
Chicago 28 L. A. 27	Minn. (-6½) 22, Chi. 16 (ot) L.A. (-11½) 14, New Orleans 7	won lost
Pitts. 20 Cinn. 14	Pitts, (-11½) 27, Houston 10 Denver (-2½) 24, Cinn. 13	won lost
L.A. 35 Minn. 3	New Orl. (+8) 27, L.A. 26 Minn. (-4) 14, Atlanta 7	lost won
St. Louis 28 N.Y. Giants 0	St. Louis (+4) 27, Minn. 7 Dal. (-13) 24, N.Y. Giants 10	won lost
Baltimore 10 Wash. 3	Balt. (-10½) 31, Buffalo 13 Wash. (-3½) 17, Phila. 14	won lost
St. Louis 24 Dallas 17	St. Louis (-10) 21, Phila. 16 Pitts. (-2) 28, Dallas 13	lost lost
Wash. 10 Green Bay 9	Dallas (-7½) 14, Wash. 7 Minn. (-7) 13, Green Bay 6	won push
Oakland 34 Buffalo 13	L.A. (+2½) 20, Oak. 14 Wash. (-6) 10, Buffalo 0	lost lost
Miami 17 Baltimore 6	New Eng. (-3½) 14, Miami 10 Detroit (+15) 13, Balt. 10	lost lost
Dallas 42 San Fran. 35	Dallas (-6) 14, Denver 7 G. Bay (-2) 16, San Fran. 14	won push

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CLEVELAND BROWNS

1978 Schedule		
9/3	SAN FRAN.	1:00
9/10	CINN.	1:00
9/17	at Atlanta	1:00
9/24	at Pittsburgh	1:00
10/1	HOUSTON	1:00
10/8	at N. Orl.	1:00
10/15	PITTS.	1:00
10/22	at Kansas City	1:00
10/29	BUFFALO	1:00
11/5	at Houston	1:00
11/12	DENVER	1:00
11/19	at Baltimore	2:00
11/26	LOS ANG.	1:00
12/3	at Seattle	1:00
12/10	N.Y. JETS	1:00
12/17	at Cincinnati	1:00

1977 Results		
9/18	at Cinn. (-11½)	13-3
9/26	N.E. (-3)*	30-27
10/2	PITTS. (-4)	14-28
10/9	OAK. (-9½)	10-26
10/16	at Hous. (-2½)	24-23
10/23	at Buff. (+5½)	27-16
10/30	K.C. (+9½)	44-7
11/6	CINN. (+3½)	7-10
11/13	at Pitts. (-4½)	31-35
11/20	at Giants (+6½)	21-7
11/27	L.A. (-2)	0-9
12/4	at S.D. (-4)	14-37
12/11	HOUSTON (-3)	15-19
12/18	at Sea. (-3½)	19-20

*Overtime

Of the 10 coaching changes made within the NFL as prologue to what will be the sport's longest season, the one in Cleveland seems suited to work rather well.

Sam Rutigliano, a well-rounded assistant with a background similar to that of Red Miller's, is prepared for the myriad challenges of sideline command and anxious to make the most of this long awaited opportunity.

Save for the exception of George Allen's return to the Rams, Rutigliano's arrival in Cleveland could augur one of the more successful turnaround situations, similar, perhaps, to what happened in Atlanta and Denver a year ago.

To be sure, the AFC Central neighborhood, featuring six games with the Steelers, Bengals and Oilers, is not the easiest playground in which to develop a winner, but there is a solid nucleus of talent upon which to build. And, it should be remembered that just two seasons ago, the Browns (9-5) were a competitive factor within the division.

Then, after surviving a difficult opening month's schedule with a pair of upset wins over Cincinnati and New England, the Browns seemed enroute to further progress. Not so. Handicapped by injuries to several key players (QB Brian Sipe, DT Jerry Sherk and number one pick Robert Jackson) and a severe personality clash with management and a few veteran players, Forrest Gregg watched the 1977 season slide out of control.

Consequently, one of the primary reasons behind the selection of Rutigliano was vested in his ability to relate to players. Noted as a teaching coach, Sam also commands respect and has long been recognized as being capable of getting the most out of the talent on hand. Such credentials should prove to be most beneficial in terms of developing the natural abilities of players like Mike Pruitt, Oscar Roan, Dave Logan, Mack Mitchell and a healthy Robert Jackson.

QUARTERBACK: Brian Sipe's loss due to a shoulder injury suffered in the second Steeler game was the turning point in team's mid-season decline. Sipe had gotten the most out of his limited physical talents and showed he has the leadership and the skill to win in the NFL. David Mays was inconsistent in relief and Terry Luck wound up finishing the season. Club feels priority need for help here, especially if Sipe continues to be injury prone.

GRADE B-

RUNNING BACK: Greg Pruitt and Cleo Miller form first rate starting combination. Pruitt's whippet moves match Cleo's consistency. Miller is also a fine receiver as well as a dependable blocker. Gregg Pruitt fashioned his third 1,000 yard season in his five year career. Former number one pick Mike Pruitt showed promise but not enough to dislodge Miller. Front office feels that the other Pruitt hasn't been given opportunity to develop properly and Rutigliano will take long look at former Purdue star. Larry Poole and Brian Duncan offer adequate bench strength.

GRADE B+

RECEIVERS: Talented but thin receiving corps that will be hurt with retirement of legendary Paul Warfield. However, Reggie Rucker, who was among the league leaders two seasons ago, should benefit from coaching change. Rutigiliano was responsible for Rucker's initial development in New England and knows how to get maximum production out of Rucker's considerable ability. Oscar Roan and Garry Parris share the TE duties, while Dave Logan has excellent moves and fine hands if he can stay healthy. Ricky Feacher has speed but needs more playing time. Club could use some talented depth.

GRADE B-

OFFENSIVE LINE: Rod Humenik was only holdover from Gregg's staff and deserved such opportunity because of his role in developing mediocre line into effective unit. The officials had big effect on the play here. Constant holding calls cost team dearly in mid-season but modified rule changes should have offsetting effect this season. Club's pass protection dipped slightly but QB shuffle didn't help either. Tom DeLeone valuable at center. Henry Sheppard and Bob Jackson are the starters at guard while Barry Durrow is expected to return to the regular lineup after a series of injuries and controversial holding penalties put him on the bench toward the end of the season. Doug Dieken continues as the team's most effective and consistent lineman. Bob Ligenfelter and Pete Adams comprise skimpy back-up corps.

GRADE C+

DEFENSIVE LINE: Early injury to Jerry Sherk hurt quite a bit but fortunately for Browns, rookie Mickey Simms and second year reserve Mike St. Clair showed considerable promise. Sherk returned to the lineup following mid-season but did not play up to usual superb form and must be considered questionable until rehabilitation is complete. Joe 'Turkey' Jones had great deal of trouble lining up on-side but when he did, he flashed penchant of getting to opposing passers. Earl Edwards had an overall good season. Key role in developing Mack Mitchell will be played by line coach Buck Buchanan, former standout with the Chiefs who will be seeking to upgrade unit's performance against the run.

GRADE C+

LINEBACKERS: New coaching staff figures to get bonus from return of Robert Jackson, last year's number one pick who was inactive due to knee troubles. Dick Ambrose won the MLB duel from Bob Babich and led the club in tackles. If Jackson is healthy, the Browns will more than likely trade Babich. Gerald Irons, the former Raider star, continued to show a knack for big play, while Charlie Hall is model of consistency at the other outside post. John Garlington and Dave Graff are the other reserves.

GRADE B

SECONDARY: Thom Darden returned from the injured list and led the team with five interceptions. Did fine job with coverage responsibility and sparked against the run. Clarence Scott and Ron Bolton shared the left corner spot while fourth round pick Oliver Davis made it on the right side as a talented rookie. Tony Peters adequate SS but depth could be a problem.

GRADE B

KICKING GAME: Don Cockroft, usually the most reliable of kickers, had more than his share of early season problems but managed to finish the year in respectable fashion. Greg Coleman did fairly well as rookie free-agent punter when number two pick Tom Skladany, Ohio State's highly regarded duel kicker, sat out the season because of contractual problems. One of Gregg's major personnel mistakes was the decision to release Eddie Payton after fine pre-season effort was offset by rash of fumblitis. Team had difficulty with return game all year long. Larry Williams, Ricky Feacher and

Rolly Woolsey will share the bulk of the return work unless Rutigliano decides to utilize Greg Pruitt's skill here as well.

GRADE C

COACHING: Rutigliano has impeccable credentials as teacher and motivator despite fact he has never been member of winning staff. Sam has worked both sides of the ball and will be an active leader. Aides like Jim Garrett and Chuck Weber will give staff solid experience factor while Buck Buchanan is expected to develop skills of young, aggressive front four. Rod Humenik has been retained as offensive line coach because of knack of getting the most out of mediocre material.

GRADE B

FRONT OFFICE: Art Modell will continue his active role of ownership but personality clash that hindered Gregg will not be a problem here. Rutigliano has way of working things out without compromising authority. Pete Hadhazy, who first spotted Rutigliano while both were at New England, is man most responsible for decision to hire Gregg's replacement and could be on the spot if move fails to pay off. Hadhazy is ably assisted by Denny Lynch, while Bob Nussbaumer heads up the scouting staff.

GRADE B

PREDICTION: Browns have talented nucleus but not enough to offset problem of competing in tough AFC Central Division. However, Rutigliano welcomes the challenge and will find a way to make this team competitive within short space of time. Club will merit more than spoiler role provided incidence of injuries doesn't cut into thin bench strength.

CLEVELAND BROWNS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Gregg Pruitt	236	1086	4.6	78	3

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Thom Darden	6	107	17.8	49	1

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Rolly Woolsey	32	3	290	9.1	44	0

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
Brian Sipe	195	112	57.4	1233	9	14	7.2

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Cleo Miller	41	291	7.1	28	1

KICK-OFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Laurence Williams	25	518	20.7	48	0

PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
Greg Coleman	61	58	39.2	29.4

SCORING	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Don Cockroft	30	31	17	23	81

Gregg Pruitt can score from anywhere on the field.

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
52	Ambrose, R.	LB	6-0/235	4	1/17/53	Virginia	14
60	Babich, B.	LB	6-2/231	9	5/5/47	Miami, Ohio	14
28	Bolton, R.	CB	6-2/170	7	4/16/50	Norfolk St.	14
12	Cockroft, D.	K	6-1/195	11	2/6/45	Adams St.	14
9	Coleman, G.	P	6-0/178	2	9/9/54	Fla. A&M	14
23	Craven, B.	S	5-10/185	2	12/18/51	Harvard	*0
27	Darden, Thom	S	6-2/193	6	8/28/50	Michigan	14
63	Darrow, B.	T	6-7/260	5	6/27/50	Montana	14
21	Davis, O.	CB	6-1/200	2	8/29/54	Tenn. St.	14
54	DeLeone, T.	C	6-2/248	7	8/13*50	Ohio St.	14
62	Dennis, Al	G	6-4/250	4	6/24/51	Grambling	14
73	Dieken, D.	T	6-5/252	8	2/12/49	Illinois	14
35	Duncan, B.	RB	6-0/201	3	3/31/52	SMU	14
66	Edwards, E.	DT	6-7/256	10	3/12/46	Wichita	14
48	†Ellis, K.	CB-KR	5-11/190	9	9/27/47	Southern	9
83	Feacher, R.	WR-KR	5-10/174	3	2/11/54	Miss. Valley	14
50	Garlington, J.	LB	6-1/221	11	6/5/46	La. St.	13
55	Graf, Dave	LB	6-2/215	4	8/5/53	Penn St.	14
59	Hall, Charlie	LB	6-3/235	8	12/2/48	Houston	14
86	Irons, G.	LB	6-2/230	9	5/2/47	Maryland-E.S.	14
68	Jackson, R.	G	6-5/250	4	4/1/53	Duke	14
58	Johnson, M.	LB	6-2/236	4	8/14/53	Missouri	7
64	Jones, Joe	DE	6-6/250	8	1/7/48	Tenn. St.	14
47	Jones, Ricky	S	6-1/195	2	3/9/55	Muskegee	3
75	Lingenfelter, B.	T	6-7/277	2	9/5/54	Nebraska	14
85	Logan, D.	WR	6-4/226	3	2/2/54	Colorado	14
7	Luck, Terry	QB	6-3/205	2	2/14/52	Nebraska	4
8	Marangi, G.	QB	6-2/203	4	7/29/52	BC	*0
10	Mays, Dave	QB	6-1/204	3	6/20/49	Tex. So.	7
30	Miller, C.	RB	5-11/202	5	9/5/52	Arkansas AM&N	14
70	Mitchell, M.	DE	6-7/245	4	8/16/52	Houston	14
84	Parris, G.	TE	6-2/226	6	6/13/50	Fla. St.	14
20	Peters, T.	S	6-1/192	4	4/28/53	Oklahoma	14
38	Poole, L.	RB	6-1/195	4	7/31/52	Kent St.	13
34	Pruitt, G.	RB	5-10/190	6	8/18/51	Oklahoma	14
43	Pruitt, M.	RB	6-0/214	3	4/3/54	Purdue	13
81	Roan, Oscar	TE	6-6/214	4	10/17/51	SMU	10
33	Rucker, R.	WR	6-2/190	9	9/21/47	Boston U.	14
22	Scott, C.	CB	6-0/180	8	4/9/49	Kansas St.	13
65	Sheppard, H.	G	6-6/246	3	11/12/52	SMU	13
72	Sherk, J.	DT	6-4/250	9	7/7/48	Okla. St.	7
78	Sims, M.	DT	6-5/282	2	3/5/55	S.C. St.	12
17	Sipe, B.	QB	6-1/190	5	8/8/49	S.Diego St.	9
74	St. Clair, M.	DE-DT	6-5/245	3	9/2/53	Grambling	11
79	Sullivan, G.	C-T	6-4/250	5	1/15/52	Illinois	13
80	Williams, L.	WR-KR	5-10/173	3	9/5/53	Texas Tech	*9
25	Woolsey, R.	S-KR	6-1/182	4	8/11/53	Boise St.	14

*Craven missed '77 season due to injury; Marangi last active with Buffalo in '76; Williams played 6 games with Kansas City, 3 with Cleveland.
†Option playout, subject to developments. Retired—Paul Warfield.

1977 NFL TEAM STATS

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

DEFENSE

	Balt.	Buff.	Cin.	Clev.	Den.	Hou.	K.C.	Mia.	N.E.	N.Y.J.	Oak.	Pitt.	S.D.	Sea.
First Downs	210	260	253	261	217	247	304	227	215	283	204	228	228	295
Rushing	78	134	113	113	77	103	169	101	86	137	86	80	102	152
Passing	116	98	113	116	123	124	113	117	111	131	105	112	105	125
Penalty	16	28	27	32	17	20	22	9	18	15	13	36	21	18
Rushes	423	589	525	524	470	522	634	467	452	575	408	493	508	596
Net Yds. Gained	1798	2405	1897	2098	1531	1815	2971	1749	1605	2245	1754	1723	1927	2485
Avg. Gain	4.3	4.1	3.6	4.0	3.3	3.5	4.7	3.7	3.6	3.9	4.3	3.5	3.8	4.2
Avg. Yds. per Game	128.4	171.8	135.5	149.9	109.4	129.6	212.2	124.9	114.6	160.4	125.3	123.1	137.6	177.5
Passes Attempted	382	316	351	340	426	379	333	414	356	377	367	357	330	349
Completed	181	155	196	184	235	192	175	226	188	215	177	157	172	199
% Completed	47.4	49.1	55.8	54.1	55.2	50.7	52.6	54.6	52.8	57.0	48.2	44.0	52.1	57.0
Total Yds. Gained	2549	2213	2453	2298	2556	2431	2244	2393	2504	2587	2503	2254	2088	2464
Passer Tackled	47	17	25	31	35	32	25	20	58	26	35	32	44	18
Yds. Lost	359	165	226	281	312	289	222	160	471	184	281	285	363	131
Net Yds. Gained	2190	2048	2227	2017	2244	2142	2022	2233	2033	2403	2222	1969	1725	2333
Avg. Yds. per Game	156.4	146.3	159.1	144.1	160.3	153.0	144.4	159.5	145.2	171.6	158.7	140.6	123.2	166.6
Net Yds. per Pass Play	5.10	6.15	5.92	5.44	4.87	5.21	5.65	5.15	4.91	5.96	5.53	5.06	4.61	6.36
Yds. Gained per Comp.	14.08	14.28	12.52	12.49	10.88	12.66	12.82	10.59	13.32	12.03	14.14	14.36	12.14	12.38
Combined Net Yds. Gained	3988	4453	4124	4115	3775	3957	4993	3982	3638	4648	3976	3692	3652	4818
%Total Yds., Rushing	45.09	54.01	46.00	50.98	40.56	45.87	59.50	43.92	44.12	48.30	44.11	46.67	52.77	51.58
%Total Yds., Passing	54.91	45.99	54.00	49.02	59.44	54.13	40.50	56.08	55.88	51.70	55.89	53.33	47.23	48.42
Avg. Yds. per Game	284.9	318.1	294.6	293.9	269.6	282.6	356.6	284.4	259.9	332.0	284.0	263.7	260.9	344.1
Ball Control Plays	852	922	901	895	931	933	992	901	866	978	810	882	882	963
Avg. Yds. per Play	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.1	4.2	5.0	4.4	4.2	4.8	4.9	4.2	4.1	5.0
Intercepted By	30	21	16	23	25	26	21	15	19	11	26	31	21	25
Yds. Returned By	434	329	238	430	491	429	348	124	194	153	352	374	317	356
Returned for TD By	0	1	2	3	2	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	1
Punts	81	73	75	70	95	77	63	67	78	73	74	79	76	54
Yds. Punted	2933	2646	2822	2641	3868	3143	2583	2581	3048	2785	2783	3180	3084	1942
Avg. Yds. per Punt	36.2	36.2	37.6	37.7	40.7	40.8	41.0	38.5	39.1	38.2	37.6	40.3	40.6	36.0
Punt Returns	44	42	38	31	55	46	50	29	33	46	31	34	40	42
Yds. Returned	481	604	260	558	397	340	703	267	270	448	217	380	378	389
Avg. Yds. per Return	10.9	14.4	6.8	18.0	7.2	7.4	14.1	9.2	8.2	9.7	7.0	11.2	9.5	9.3
Returned for TD	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Kickoff Returns	60	40	48	50	50	63	44	59	52	45	63	48	47	50
Yds. Returned	1514	814	1029	986	1084	1331	958	1281	1086	946	997	1080	952	1240
Avg. Yds. per Return	25.2	20.4	21.4	19.7	21.7	21.1	21.8	21.7	20.9	21.0	15.8	22.5	20.3	24.8
Returned for TD	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Penalties	78	71	103	117	97	97	105	82	71	89	82	82	87	96
Yds. Penalized	618	638	788	979	718	791	929	644	610	788	717	784	831	794
Fumbles	27	21	34	32	28	39	39	37	20	37	31	28	28	20
Lost	17	12	23	16	14	28	23	18	10	17	21	13	10	11
Out of Bounds	0	0	2	3	0	2	2	0	0	3	1	0	1	0
Own Rec. for TD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Opp. Rec.	14	20	16	22	15	17	21	13	15	14	16	28	11	14
Opp. Rec. for TD	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	3	1	1	0
Total Points Scored	221	313	235	267	148	230	349	197	217	300	230	243	205	373
Total TDs	27	39	29	32	18	26	42	23	26	39	29	29	26	43
TDs Rushing	11	21	15	14	5	11	23	12	8	14	7	9	11	21
TDs Passing	10	17	14	15	11	12	15	10	16	23	17	16	14	19
TDs on Ret. and Rec.	6	1	0	3	2	3	4	1	2	2	5	4	1	3
Extra Points	24	37	26	27	16	24	37	21	22	34	23	27	25	42
Safeties	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Field Goals Made	11	14	11	16	8	16	20	12	13	10	11	14	8	23
Field Goals Attempted	21	21	18	22	22	22	28	20	21	21	19	21	13	31
% Successful	52.4	66.7	61.1	72.7	36.4	72.7	71.4	60.0	61.9	47.6	57.9	66.7	61.5	74.2

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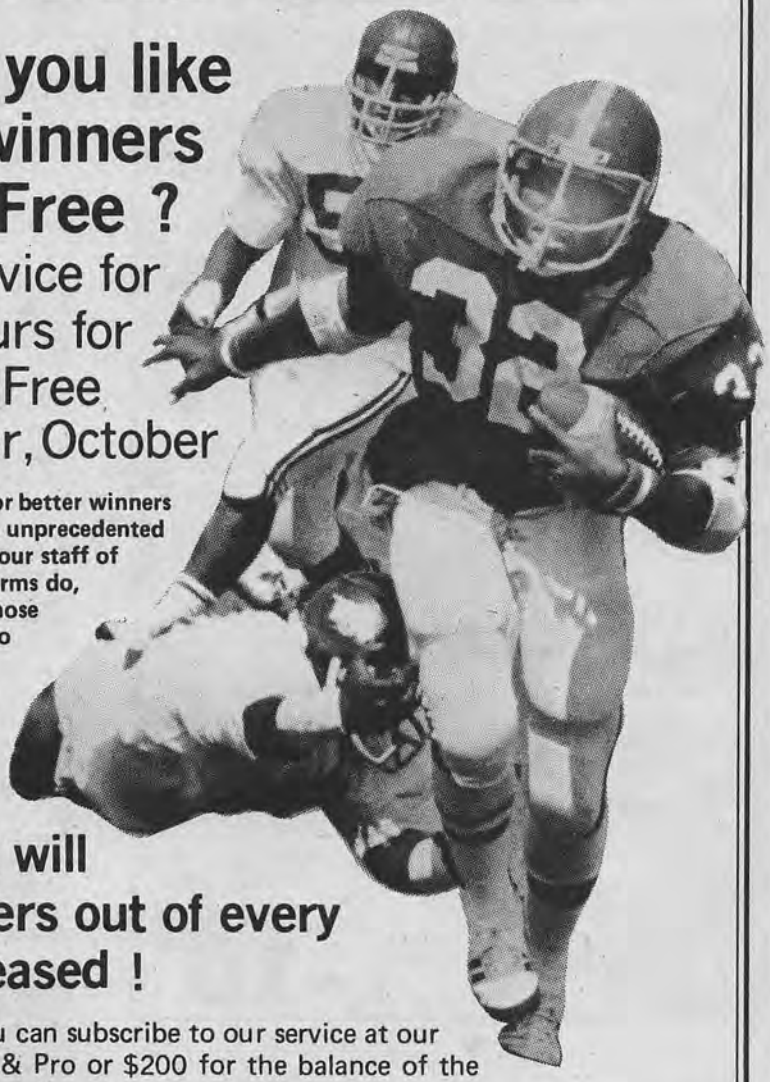

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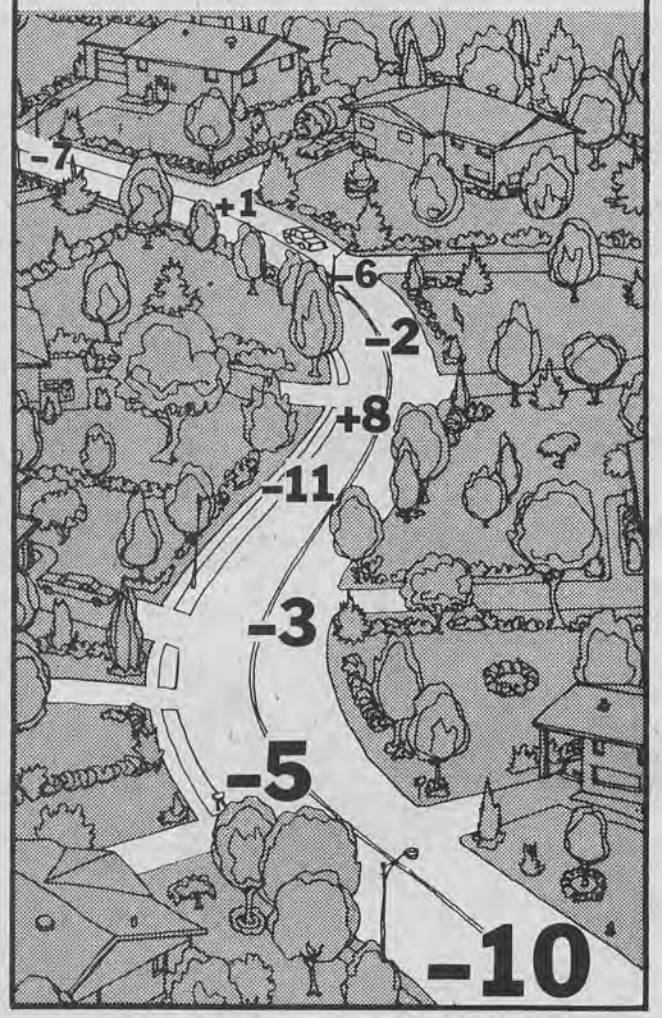


By TODD EVANS

When Santa Claus asked Jumpin' Jack what he wanted for Christmas, Jack reportedly asked for points.

"I looked under my tree the next morning," admitted Jack, "but the fat man had let me down. Anyway, I really don't need him for points. Any bookmaker in the world will give me points."

But Jumpin' Jack is a particular sort. Points aren't enough unless they come at home.

"That's right," says Jack with a hop, "I love betting football teams that are getting points at home and conversely, I never give points on the road."

The statistics bear Jack out. Home underdogs won 56 percent of the time last year. Now 56 percent isn't an overwhelming percentage, but it's significant enough to keep Jack in Mercedes and Continentals for the rest of his life.

So steady was this simple theorem that only four teams were able to give points on the road and emerge with a winning pointspread mark. Cleveland (2-0), Green Bay (1-0), Houston (4-0) and Minnesota (2-1-1) comprised the quartet.

The Los Angeles Rams and Oakland Raiders were the two teams to be favored in all seven of their away games and both compiled 3-4 marks.

The Baltimore Colts, New England Patriots, Chicago Bears, Dallas Cowboys and Denver Broncos played five games on the road in which they were favored and none of the teams could brag of a winning record. Dallas was the best at 2-2-1 while the others all posted 2-3 ledgers.

Only one team in the entire NFL got points in every home contest and that was—yep, you guessed it—the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Guess what? The Bucs had a winning home record (and underdog record) against the points with a 4-3 log. But the home under dog championship goes to the San Diego Chargers who were a perfect 4-0. Special mention should go to the New York Jets (4-0-1), Washington Redskins (3-0) and Miami Dolphins (2-0). These teams made the most of the home field, especially when getting points.

Incidentally, the worst team getting points at home was the Green Bay Packers (0-4-1). Buffalo (1-5) and Cleveland (1-4) were other major disappointments.

	Giving Points On The Road	Getting Points At Home
Atlanta	1-2	1-2
Baltimore	2-3	0-0
Buffalo	0-1	1-5
Chicago	2-3	1-0
Cincinnati	2-2	2-1
Cleveland	2-0	1-4
Dallas	2-2-1	0-0
Denver	2-3	0-1
Detroit	0-1	1-2
Green Bay	1-0	0-4-1
Houston	4-0	3-1
Kansas City	0-0	4-1
Los Angeles	3-4	1-0
Miami	1-1-2	2-0
Minnesota	2-1-1	0-0
New England	2-3	0-0
New Orleans	0-0	2-1
N.Y. Giants	1-0	4-2
N.Y. Jets	0-0	4-0-1
Oakland	3-4	0-0
Philadelphia	0-0	1-1
St. Louis	1-3	0-1
San Diego	0-2	4-0
San Francisco	1-1	1-1-2
Seattle	0-0	3-2
Tampa Bay	0-0	4-3
Washington	0-3	3-0

The Jets were 4-0-1 getting points at Shea Stadium.

Raiders' Revenge Has 'Orange' Flavor

AFC WEST

1978 PREDICTED FINISH

FINAL 1977 NFL TEAM STANDINGS

	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Op
Denver	12	2	0	.857	274	148
Oakland	11	3	0	.786	351	230
San Diego	7	7	0	.500	222	205
Seattle	5	9	0	.357	282	373
Kansas City	2	12	0	.143	225	349

AFC Championship
Denver 20, Oakland 17

While John Madden and Red Miller compete for first place, Tommy Prothro will spend his time honing the skills of the AFC West dark horse candidate for wild card representation. The Chargers are coming hard and there is a distinct possibility that the Bronco/Raider struggle could develop into a three-way affair. The Chiefs and the Seahawks, both of whom seem improved because of textbook drafts, will battle each other to remain free of the stigma of last place.

PLAYER PERSONNEL UPDATE

RAIDERS: For the third consecutive season, the Raiders will open camp without the luxury of having exercised a number one pick. And, even though the club had all nine of last year's choices wind up on rosters around the league, the strain of not having a number one pick since the club tabbed Neil Colzie in the opening round of the 1975 lottery, is beginning to show. Al Davis, unhappy with the overall performance of the club's defensive line, selected Dave Browning, Washington's fairly efficient pass rusher to give the unit some talented depth. Third round choice LIndsay Mason is the Raiders favorite kind of lineman. Big, strong and quick, Mason could be this year's equivalent to Mickey Marvin, the sleeper from Tennessee who was drafted number four in 1977.

BRONCOS: Denver has yet to make a significant offseason trade and because the club had traded away most of the middle choices for immediate help—Bernard Jackson and Craig Morton—a year ago, the Bronco draft can best be summed up with the names Don Latimer and Bill Gay. Latimer, the successor to M.G. Reuben Carter at Miami, is considered to have the same kind of credentials as Carter, the man who anchors the Broncos' three man line. Number two pick Bill Gay could provide some powerful blocking should Miller elect to utilize a double tight end alignment.

CHARGERS: Tommy Prothro, noted for his ability to develop young talent, is a firm believer in the fact that the draft must be utilized properly if a club is to receive the kind of talent infusion that wins championships. Since Prothro has been directing the fortunes of the Chargers, the team has added a total of 25 players via the draft. This year's results should be equal to the kind of drafts the team has enjoyed in the past two seasons. Number one selection Johnny Jefferson, another graduate of Frank Kush's finishing school for NFL receivers, has excellent speed and good enough hands to break into the starting lineup. The addition of Jefferson allowed the Chargers to deal Larry Dorsey, another talented prospect who spent his rookie season recovering from an assortment of ailments, to the Chiefs for Wilbur Young, the mammoth defensive end whose performance is apt to be much improved if paired with Louie Kelcher, the club's premier defensive tackle. Milton Hardaway, a raw talent who needs coaching to enhance his immense physical attributes (6-8, 320) was a surprise number two pick and will be available to back up aging Russ Washington.

SEAHAWKS: Seattle also needed defensive help and Jack Patera strengthened the Seahawks' secondary immeasurably through the first and third round selections of Keith Simpson and Bob Jury. Simpson, a hard-hitting CB with 4.5 speed, played in the shadow of Eric Harris at Memphis State where the name of the game is aggressive defense. The Seahawks went right back to the same campus for linebacking help when they named Keith Butler as their number two choice. The Seahawks would appear to have strenghtened both the secondary and the linebacking contingent to the point where the club could, if given an effective pass rush, continue to forge its image as the most competitive expansion club since the Cowboys and the Vikings.

CHIEFS: Considering that the Chiefs may have been the weakest team in the league and that the club's defensive line was trampled over by opposing rushing attacks more often than not, the selection of Art Still and Sylvester Hicks in the first two rounds comes as no great surprise. Still, who has a reputation for making the big play, is a 6-7 giant with enough quickness to play outside linebacker in the 3-4 alignments being prepared by new coach Marv Levy. Sylvester Hicks, another excellent pass rusher in the mold of past Tenn. State stars like Claude Humphrey and Ed Jones, are also expected to start within moments of reporting to camp. The club added a pair of quality linebacking prospects in Gary Spani and Danny Johnson. And, no doubt, Les Miller was pleasantly surprised when Missouri's local hero, Pete Woods, was available in the fourth round. Woods could press Tony Adams for the back-up QB role behind Mike Livingston.

OAKLAND RAIDERS

1978 Schedule		
9/3	at Denver	2:00
9/10	at San Diego	1:00
9/17	at Green Bay	1:00
9/24	NEW ENG.	6:00
10/1	at Chicago	3:00
10/8	HOUSTON	1:00
10/15	KANSAS CITY	1:00
10/22	at Seattle	1:00
10/29	SAN DIEGO	1:00
11/5	at Kansas City	1:00
11/13	at Cinn.(Mon.)	9:00
11/19	DETROIT	1:00
11/26	SEATTLE	1:00
12/3	DENVER	6:00
12/10	at Miami	4:00
12/17	MINNESOTA	1:00

1977 Results		
9/18	S. D (+13½)	24-0
9/25	at Pitts (+2½)	16-7
10/3	at K.C. (+13½)	38-27
10/9	at Cleve (+9½)	26-10
10/16	DENVER (+10)	7-30
10/23	at Jets (+13)	28-27
10/30	at Den. (+3½)	24-14
11/6	SEATTLE (+20)	44-7
11/13	HOUS. (+13)	34-29
11/20	at S.D. (+13)	7-12
11/28	BUFF. (+16½)	34-13
12/4	at L. A. (+2½)	14-20
12/11	MINN. (+11½)	35-13
12/18	K. C. (+13)	21-20

This time a year ago the Oakland Raiders were celebrating the end of a decade's worth of frustration with an eye toward the challenge of defending their long awaited Super Bowl Championship.

While the players and fans luxurated in the accomplishment of what NFL Films entitled the Crowing Glory, Al Davis fretted about the improvement made in places like Denver and San Diego.

Both Davis and John Madden, aware of how important the club's dominance of the AFC West had been throughout the length of the Raiders' performance as the winningest team in the game (Oakland had not lost more than one game within the division since 1969) were genuinely concerned with the progress of the rebuilding program of the Broncos and the Chargers.

Such concern was well placed as the Raiders were dethroned as AFC Western Division champions for the first time in six seasons. And, unlike the events in the AFC Championship loss to Denver, the loss of the divisional title could not be blamed on an untoward bounce of the football.

While the Raiders continued to score with the frequency (351 points) of their past reputation for high octane offense, the defense, denied the services of key personnel because of injuries to Phil Villapiano and George Atkinson, proved to be unaccustomedly vulnerable to sudden, game breaking plays.

Interestingly enough, however, the team's defensive statistics indicated overall improvement in points allowed, rushing defense and pass coverage. And, surprisingly enough, the Raiders were even more opportunistic (47 turnovers as opposed to 25) on defense than in their Championship season.

Offensively, the running game was much improved (187 yards per game compared to 163) but the team's passing attack, showing the effects of Ken Stabler's uncharacteristic inaccuracy, dropped sharply from 207 yards to 150 per contest.

Of course, the Raiders still have the finest overall collection of 'offensive' super stars in the sport, as well as enough talented defensive performers to make the club a strong favorite to recapture their divisional title. But you can bet Davis is still worried about the continued progress of the opposition.

QUARTERBACK: Hindered by a nagging knee problem, Stabler suffered through a rather ordinary season which included a brace of surprisingly inept (11 interceptions) performances against the Broncos and the Rams. Still, there is little doubt that the Snake remains the game's premier QB, especially when something of value is at stake. Just ask Bert Jones and the Colts. Ken finished the season with a total of 20 TDs while completing 57.5% of his passes for 2,176 yards to offset an increase in interceptions. Mike Rae is still highly regarded despite a disappointing performance against the Chargers. David Humm remains untested while the signing of Bobby Douglass is a distinct surprise.

GRADE A+

RUNNING BACK: Oakland led the AFC in rushing and proved capable of playing ball control against the best defenses. Mark van Eeghen, the first back in team history to enjoy successive 1,000 yard seasons, remains an underrated but valuable performer. Clarence Davis averaged 4.1 yards per carry and came within 213 yards of joining van Eeghen in the 1,000 yard club. Club has quality depth here as well with veterans Pete Banaszak (who may not be back) and Carl Garrett. Raiders added fine young performer in Terry Robiske, the eighth round draft choice from LSU who was retained in place of number two pick Ted McKnight.

GRADE A-

RECEIVERS: Dave Casper enjoyed superb season that was climaxed by outstanding skien of post-season performances. Casper led the club in receiving with 48 catches worth 584 yards and a total of five TDs. All three principal wide receivers—Cliff Branch, Mike Siani and Fred Biletnikoff—were handicapped at some point during the season with an assortment of nagging injuries. Branch, still possessed of world class sprinter speed, averaged 16.4 per catch (33) and scored six times while the glue-fingered Biletnikoff had the same number of catches and one less TD. Raiders will benefit significantly from rule changes that prohibit defensive contact five yards past the line of scrimmage. Warren Bankston, Ted Kwalick, Morris Bradshaw, and last year's rookie find Rich Martini, give the Raiders excellent depth.

GRADE A+

OFFENSIVE LINE: Dave Dalby finally received much deserved all-pro recognition and joined Art Shell and Gene Upshaw at the pro bowl in Tampa. Shell remains a superb tackle, but Upshaw has slipped somewhat. George Buehler may not return at right guard, but Raiders appear to be in excellent shape now that Henry Lawrence proved himself invincible in post-season competition. Lawrence filled in for Vella but can also play guard. Vella, rated the team's best pass blocker, has recovered fully from last season's knee troubles and will remain at RT. Mickey Marvin, another huge lineman "stolen" in the fourth round of the '77 draft, has the kind of size and potential one associates with Raider offensive linemen. Team will also benefit from new interpertation of holding rules.

GRADE A+

DEFENSIVE LINE: John Matuszak started slow but finished season as the club's most consistent lineman. Dave Rowe and former Packer Mike McCoy will share the nose guard position while Pat Toomay continues in his role as the club's designated pass rusher. Otis Sistrunk was slowed by injuries while mammouth second-year prospect Charles Philyaw also was sidelined by knee problems. Price for McCoy (number one pick) may be too high. Team will seek to add depth via draft and possible trades.

GRADE B+

LINEBACKING: Absence of Phil Villapiano who suffered early season knee injury hurt overall defense against the run and the pass, especially in the playoffs. Floyd Rice did okay as sub but had difficulty in pass coverage situations. Ted Hendricks had a rather ordinary season while Willie Hall continued to impress with penchant for making the big play. Jeff Barnes an excellent prospect while Rod Martin rejoined the club late in the season. Monte Johnson remained a dependable MLB noted for consistency against the run. Raiders need a healthy Villapiano to prevent repeat of last year's lapses that led to several long gainers with short range passes.

GRADE A

SECONDARY: Unit was hindered by rash of serious injuries. Atkinson, Charles Phillips and Neil Colzie were all idle at one time or another, with the first two finishing the season on the injured reserve list. Lester Hayes, Davis' sleeper defensive back who was surprisingly availabe in the fifth round of last year's draft, gained valuable experience to go along with superb natural ability. Number two pick Mike Davis was idle for the year with a scholarship type of injury and should make an earnest bid for starting spot. Willie Brown will probably retire. Jack Tatum remains hard-hitting FS but coaching staff is concerned about his lapses in deep coverage. Overall, club seems to be in excellent shape if everyone remains healthy. Raiders expected to deal from strength in this area.

GRADE A-

KICKING GAME: Davis made a typical error in giving up on Rolf Bernishke. Even though Erroll Mann led the league in scoring, the former Lion is still 15 years older than Bernishke, and Davis will feel worse every time the Raiders play the Chargers. Ray Guy is still the best punter in the business and led the NFL for the fourth time in his five year career. There is a need for return of help primarily because Rick Jennings, back for his second tour with the club, fumbles too much and hasn't really recovered from knee surgery. Neil Colzie valuable performer as quality punt returner.

GRADE A-

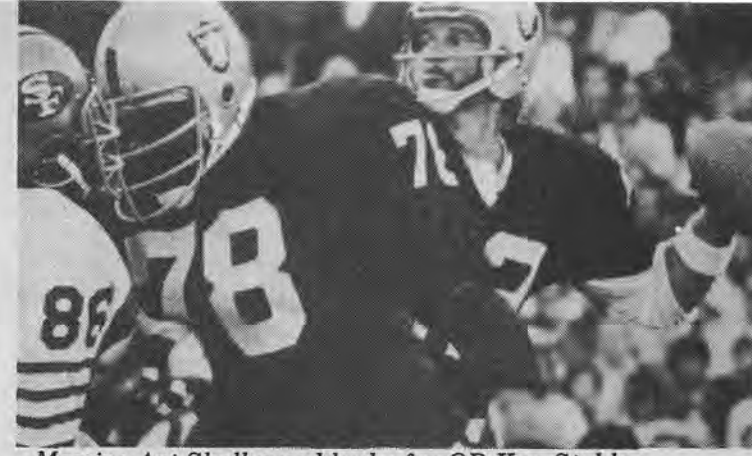
COACHING: John Madden continues in his role as one of the game's premier coaches and has nine-year career record of 94-25-7. Barring complete collapse, the Raiders should see to it that mid-way through the season Madden becomes only the second coach (Don Shula is the other) to reach century mark in 10 seasons. Raiders made three staff changes with Don Shinnick being replaced by Myrel Moore, the man who has been credited with developing Broncos' superb group of linebackers. Joe Scannella, one of the best special teams coaches in the NFL, accepted head job with Montreal while defensive backfield coach Bob Zeeman left for Denver. They will be replaced by Jim Sweeney, former head coach at Washington State and Roy Willsey, the ex-secondary coach of the Cardinals.

GRADE A+

FRONT OFFICE: Al Davis has unique advantage of being sole NFL owner with coaching experience and that's why Raiders have one of the strongest front office operations in the league. Ron Wolf, who did fine job in Tampa, is expected to return. Bob Mischak and Tom Grimes handle bulk of college scouting while Steve Ortmayer, former special teams coach with the Chiefs, has been tabbed for pro scouting duties. Despite drafting last in '77, and even though they lacked a number one selection, the Raiders were the only team in the league whose entire compliment of draft choices managed to earn roster space.

GRADE A+

PREDICTION: Despite difficult schedule—eight games against teams with winning records—and improved competition within the division. Raiders have superb blend of offensive and defensive talent which should enable them to regain AFC Western title.



Massive Art Shell pass-blocks for QB Ken Stabler.

OAKLAND RAICERS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Mark van Eeghen	324	1273	3.9	27	7

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Jack Tatum	6	146	24.3	41	0

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Neil Colzie	32	6	334	10.4	23	0

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
Ken Stabler	294	169	57.5	2176	20	20	6.8

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Dave Casper	48	584	12.2	27	6

KICK-OFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Carl Garrett	21	420	20.0	31	0

PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
Ray Guy	59	2552	74	43.3

SCORING	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Errol Mann	39	42	20	28	99

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
43	Atkinson,G.	S	6-0/185	11	1/4/47	Morris Brn.	12
40	Banaszak,P.	RB	6-0/210	13	7/21/44	Miami	14
46	Bankston,W.	TE	6-4/235	10	7/22/47	Tulane	14
56	Barnes,J.	LB	6-2/215	2	3/1/55	California	14
25	Biletnikoff,F.	WR	6-1/190	14	2/23/43	Fla. St.	14
81	Bradshaw,M.	WR	6-1/195	5	10/19/52	Ohio St.	14
21	Branch,C.	WR	5-11/170	7	8/1/48	Colorado	13
24	Brown,W.	CB	6-1/210	16	12/2/40	Grambling	14
64	Buehler,G.	G	6-2/270	10	8/10/47	Stanford	14
87	Casper,D.	TE	6-4/230	5	2/2/52	Notre Dame	14
20	Colzie,N.	CB	6-2/205	4	2/28/53	Ohio St.	13
50	Dalby,D.	C	6-3/250	7	10/19/50	UCLA	14
28	Davis,C.	RB	5-10/195	8	6/28/49	USC	14
10	Douglass,B.	QB	6-4/228	10	6/22/47	Kansas	*4
31	†Garrett,C.	RB	5-10/205	10	8/31/47	N.M.Highlnds	14
29	Ginn,Hubie	RB	5-9/185	9	1/4/47	Florida A&M	10
8	Guy,R.	K	6-3/195	6	12/22/49	So. Miss.	14
	Hall,R.	CB-S	6-3/194	3	2/8/52	Idaho	*0
39	Hall,W.	LB	6-2/225	6	9/29/49	USC	14
37	Hayes,L.	CB	6-0/208	2	1/22/55	Texas A&M	14
83	Hendricks,T.	LB	6-7/220	10	11/1/47	Miami	14
11	Humm,D.	QB	6-2/185	4	4/2/52	Nebraska	14
42	Jackson,S.	S	6-1/190	2	4/4/55	LSU	6
33	Jennings,R.	WR	5-9/180	3	4/17/53	Maryland	*5
58	Johnson,M.	LB	6-5/240	6	10/26/51	Nebraska	14
34	Kunz,T.	RB	6-1/215	2	10/26/52	Colorado	*0
88	Kwalick,T.	TE	6-4/225	10	8/15/47	Penn St.	12
70	Lawrence,H.	T	6-4/270	5	9/26/51	Florida A&M	14
68	Little,E.	T	6-4/280	2	6/12/54	Houston	*0
14	Mann,E.	K	6-0/205	11	6/27/41	No.Dakota	14
53	Martin,R.	LB	6-2/205	2	4/7/54	USC	1
65	Marvin,M.	G	6-4/270	2	10/5/55	Tennessee	8
72	Matuszak,J.	DE	6-8/275	6	10/25/50	Tampa	14
57	McClanahan,R.	LB	6-5/225	2	12/12/54	LSU	14
76	McCoy,M.	DT	6-5/275	9	9/6/48	Notre Dame	14
55	Nelson,B.	LB	6-4/232	4	6/30/53	Nebraska	*11
47	Phillips,C.	S	6-2/215	4	123/22/52	USC	7
77	Philyaw,C.	DE	6-9/275	3	2/25/54	Tex. So.	3
15	Rae,M.	QB	6-0/190	3	7/6/51	USC	10
52	Rice,F.	LB	6-3/225	8	8/31/49	Alcorn A&M	13
35	Robiskie,T.	RB	6-1/210	2	11/12/54	LSU	14
74	Rowe,D.	DT	6-7/210	12	6/20/45	Penn State	14
78	Shell,Art	T	6-5/275	11	11/26/46	Maryland-E.S.	14
49	Siani,M.	WR	6-2/195	7	5/27/50	Villanova	12
60	Sistrunk,O.	DE	6-4/270	7	9/18/47	No college	12
12	Stabler,K.	QB	6-3/215	9	12/25/45	Alabama	13
66	Sylvester,S.	C	6-4/260	4	3/4/53	Notre Dame	14
32	†Tatum,J.	S	5-11/205	7	11/18/48	Ohio State	11
26	Thomas,S.	CB	6-1/205	7	2/7/50	USC	12
67	Toomay,Pat	DE	6-6/245	9	5/17/48	Vanderbilt	14
63	Upshaw,Gene	G	6-5/255	12	8/15/45	Texas A&I	14
30	van Eeghen,M.	RB	6-2/225	5	4/19/52	Colgate	14
75	Vella,J.	T	6-4/26-0	7	4/21/50	USC	5
41	Villapiano,P.	LB	6-2/225	8	2/26/49	Bowling Green	2
22	†Warren,J.	CB	5-11/175	13	7/20/39	Illinois	2

*Douglass played 4 games with New Orleans; Hall last active with Baltimore in '76; Jennings played 3 games with San Francisco, 2 with Oakland; Kunz missed '77 season due to injury; Little last active with Tampa Bay in '76; Nelson played 11 games with Buffalo.
†Option playout; subject to developments.

DENVER BRONCOS

1978 Schedule		
9/3	OAKLAND	2:00
9/11	at Minn. (Mon.)	8:00
9/17	SAN DIEGO	2:00
9/24	at Kansas City	1:00
10/1	SEATTLE	2:00
10/8	at San Diego	1:00
10/16	CHI. (Mon.)	7:00
10/22	at Baltimore	4:00
10/29	at Seattle	1:00
11/5	N.Y. JETS	2:00
11/12	at Cleveland	1:00
11/19	GREEN BAY	2:00
11/23	at Det(Thnks)	12:30
12/3	at Oakland	6:00
12/10	KANSAS CITY	2:00
12/16	PITTS. (Sat.)	2:00

1977 Results		
9/18	ST. LOUIS (+3½)	7-0
9/25	BUFF. (+13)	26-6
10/2	at Sea. (+15)	23-7
10/9	K.C. (+10½)	23-7
10/16	at Oak. (-10)	30-7
10/23	at Cinn. (+2½)	24-13
10/30	OAK. (-3½)	14-24
11/6	PITTS. (+1)	21-7
11/13	at S.D. (+3½)	17-14
11/20	at K.C. (+7½)	14-7
11/27	BALT. (+2)	27-13
12/4	at Hou. (+1½)	24-14
12/11	S.D. (+6½)	17-9
12/18	at Dallas (+3½)	6-14

Despite the reverse crush inflicted on the Broncos' Super Bowl hopes via the devastating defensive performance of the Cowboys last January, the Mile High accomplishments of Red Miller, Craig Morton, Lyle Alzado and Tom Jackson, to mention but a few of Denver's improbable heros, will not soon be forgotten.

Not by the delirious fans of the Orange Crush and certainly not by the players and coaches of the AFC's most surprising champions since the Jets shocked the hell out of the Colts and the NFL establishment a decade ago. And, no matter what actually happened on that disputed fumble, the Oakland Raiders won't forget that their first loss in Denver since John Kennedy was president cost them a chance to match the legendary accomplishments of the Packers, Dolphins and Steelers.

Put another way, the stunning ascendency of the Broncs may have caught the media by surprise but none of the AFC powers—Denver defeated post-season rivals Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Oakland a total of five times—could argue the validity of Red Miller and his squad's Super Bowl credentials.

Not when the Broncos defense, incredibly quick and awesomely effective, took away opposing running games with deceptive ease. Passing wasn't all that much fun either. Especially when Tom Jackson and Lyle Alzado managed to get in the way. And, there could be no disputing the performance of Morton, the offensive catalyst whose penchant for putting the ball up for grabs was converted into a careful and precise patience which more often than not, culminated in long distance TD connections with either Haven Moses, Rick Upchurch, Jack Dolbin or Riley Odoms.

Finally, there was Miller himself. After serving a long and meritorious apprenticeship as an assistant, Miller left New England and welcomed the challenge inherent in taking a 9-5 team that had rebelled against its previous coach and leading it to the playoffs.

Miller's obvious display of leadership, combined with a little-noticed method of full employment in which each player's skills were utilized to obtain maximum efficiency, provided the Broncos with renewed confidence and more than enough self-respect to launch a successful challenge against the power structure of the AFC.

QUARTERBACK: Comeback player-of-the-year with hardly a dissenting vote, Craig Morton was the catalyst in the Broncos offensive surge. Craig showed why the Cowboys hated to let him go and why the Giants gave up the number one pick in the 1975 draft (Randy White) to secure his services. Morton curbed his tendency to throw needless interceptions and carried out Miller's offensive strategy just the way it was drawn in the play-book. Morton, whose statistical performance with the Giants was ineffective, finished second to Bob Griese in the AFC rankings with a rating of 82.1. He completed 51% of his passes for 1,929 yards and 14 TDs against just 8 interceptions. Norris Weese and Craig Penrose, provide quality depth. Weese is a scrambler who adds mobility to the Broncos offense, while Penrose has an especially strong arm.

GRADE A-

RUNNING BACK: Miller put his full employment philosophy to work here, much in the manner of the Patriots. When he was running the NE offense, Miller made a habit out of utilizing everyone's talents with the expressed intention of having a fully rested group of runners to throw at opposing defenses in the final quarter of play. Otis Armstrong shared playing time with number two pick Rob Lytle and the team benefited greatly, even though Armstrong's production dropped sharply due to reduced playing time and a series of nagging injuries. Armstrong still led the club in rushing with 489 yards. Next was Lonnie Perrin, the former Illinois speedster, who carried the ball 110 times for 456 yards and a 4.1 average. Lytle was the third Bronco back to crack the 400 yard mark and enjoyed a 3.9 average. Jon Keyworth (311 yards) and Jim Jensen rounded out a deep and talented corps of runners.

GRADE A-

RECEIVERS: Contributory philosophy was put to work here as well. Riley Odoms (club leading total of 37 receptions) ranks with Dave Casper and Russ Francis as one of the game's premier TEs. Haven Moses (27 catches, 20.0 avg.), Jack Dolbin and Rick Upchurch combined to give Morton deep threat every time he dropped back in the pocket. These four receivers combined for 12 of Morton's 14 TD passes. Bronco passing attack now considered primary offensive strength instead of erratic weakness as in the past.

GRADE A

OFFENSIVE LINE: Red Miller's specialty, and not surprisingly, is the most improved area of offense. Miller salvaged Andy Maurer from the waiver wire and also aided in the development of Claude Minor and Steve Schindler. The trade for Mike Montler solidified the center position which was ably backed up by Bobby Maples. Number one picks Tom Glassic (76) and Schindler (77) blended in well and should improve even more now that both are versed in Miller's system. Paul Howard continued in his role as an underrated but effective guard. Team could use more depth and improvement in pass protection.

GRADE B

DEFENSIVE LINE: Most observers seemed to be unaware of Miller's effective strategy in utilizing all his available talent here as well. First line unit of Lyle Alzado, Rubin Carter and Barney Chavous received most of the attention and the bulk of the work. However, Brison Manor, John Grant and Paul Smith all made major contributions, especially in the playoffs, as Miller alternated both units interchangeably. Excellent pass rush (35 sacks) despite built in complications of 3-4 alignments.

GRADE A

LINEBACKERS: The heart and soul of the Bronco defense. Tom Jackson is the finest outside linebacker in the game. He has exceptional quickness and is especially alert in pass coverage situations, as his trio of thefts against Stabler, Jones and Bradshaw would seem to indicate. Randy Gradishar, despite being hobbled late in the season with severe ankle problems, still played well enough to merit selection as the AFC Pro Bowl MLB. Bob Swenson and Joe Rizzo are the other starters, and both are unheralded but integral parts of the Bronco defense against the run which may be the most effective in the sport. As a group, the Bronco linebackers are surely the quickest in the game if not the best. Godwin Turk and Larry Evans are the primary reserves.

GRADE A+

SECONDARY: Ball hawking secondary is headed up by Louis Wright, the former number one pick from San Diego State, who has developed into pro bowl material at cornerback. Steve Foley and Chris Pane have shared the left side with Pane often appearing as a fifth back. Solid performance (club leading total of five interceptions) by veteran SS Bill Thompson gave Broncos tough coverage against opposing TEs while Bernard Jackson arrived from Cincinnati and took over FS spot. Miller credited Jackson with playing key role in club's improved pass defense. Randy Poltl is a valuable back-up who does a fine job on special teams.

GRADE A-

KICKING GAME: Broncos may have finest special teams unit in the NFL. Upchurch is a devastating factor as a return man. Gifted with excellent speed and incredible acceleration, Upchurch plays pivotal role in battle for field position. Rick produced total of 1,109 yards in both phases of work as well as several key long distance receptions. Jim Turner remained his consistent self on placement and field goal efforts while Bucky Dilts could be the AFC's finest emerging punter since the Raiders drafted Ray Guy number one back in 1972. Dilts had penchant for clutch kicks and was credited with 19 punts inside of opponents 20 yard line. Bronco coverage against kicks and punt returns was second most effective in AFC.

GRADE A+

COACHING: Red Miller was voted AFC Coach-of-the-Year in several polls and was indeed worthy of whatever honors came his way. Miller seemed marked for success following a long apprenticeship with several clubs. He proved that ability by motivating the hell out of the Broncos, thereby supplying some much needed leadership. His offensive staff, keyed by Babe Parilli, Paul Roach and Fran Polsfoot as well as offensive line mentor Ken Gray, meshed nicely with defensive holdovers from Ralston's crew. Joe Collier is a fine defensive coordinator but club will miss Myrel Moore, the man responsible for the fine play of Bronco linebackers. Moore left for similar job with the Raiders. Broncos added Bob Zeeman, Oakland's intense backfield coach for same role with Bronco secondary.

GRADE A+

FRONT OFFICE: Strong ownership by Phipps brothers has made Bronco franchise one of the most valuable (financially) in the league. General Manager Fred Gehrke is the key to the team's fine success in personnel while Carroll Hardy does a fine job as director of scouting. Broncos have the highest number of starters (five) in AFC West in terms of number one draft choices since 1970. The club has been improved each season. John Ralston due some credit as well for his role in revamping Bronco personnel policies.

GRADE A

LB Randy Gradishar leads "Orange Crush" defense.

PREDICTION: Broncos will face tough fight from Raiders for divisional honors right from the start when the two clubs clash in opener. Denver, however, will benefit from less arduous schedule in which they will play just six games against teams with winning records compared to eight for Oakland and 10 for a Charger club that could be one of the most improved teams in the league. The Broncos will be in the playoffs either as Western titlist or one of AFC wild card entrants.

DENVER BRONCOS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Otis Armstrong	130	489	3.8	35	4
Lonnie Perrin	110	456	4.1	62	3

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Billy Thompson	5	122	24.4	38	0

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Rick Upchurch	51	6	653	12.8	87	1

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
Craig Morton	254	131	51.6	1929	14	8	3.1

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Riley Odoms	37	429	11.6	33	3

KICK-OFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Rick Upchurch	20	456	22.8	32	0

PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
Bucky Dilts	90	63	39.2	33.6

SCORING	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Jim Turner	31	34	13	19	76*

*Includes TDP.

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
73	Allison, H.	T	6-3/255	6	2/11/47	S.Diego St.	*11
77	Alzado, L.	DE	6-3/250	8	4/3/49	Yankton Col.	14
24	Armstrong, O.	RB	5-10/196	6	11/15/50	Purdue	10
75	Bain, Bill	T	6-4/270	4	8/9/52	USC	14
54	Baska, Rick	LB	6-3/225	3	2/19/52	UCLA	4
68	Carter, R.	DT	6-0/256	4	12/12/52	Miami	14
79	Chavous, B.	DE	6-3/252	6	3/22/51	So. Caro. St.	13
10	Dilts, B.	P	5-9/183	2	12/6/53	Georgia	14
82	Dolbin, J.	WR	5-10/180	4	10/12/48	WFU	14
85	Egloff, R.	TE	6-5/238	2	10/3/55	Wisconsin	13
56	Evans, L.	LB	6-2/216	3	7/11/53	Miss. College	14
43	Foley, S.	S	5-11/185	3	11/11/53	Tulane	13
62	Glassic, T.	LB	6-2/216	3	4/17/54	Virginia	14
53	Gradishar, R.	LB	6-3/233	5	3/3/52	Ohio St.	14
63	Grant, John	DT	6-3/246	6	6/28/50	USC	14
60	Howard, Paul	G	6-3/260	5	9/12/50	BYU	14
65	Hyde, Glenn	T	6-3/250	5	3/14/51	Pittsburgh	14
29	Jackson, B.	DT	6-0/178	7	9/24/50	WSU	14
57	Jackson, T.	LB	5-11/220	6	4/4/51	Louisville	13
30	Jensen, Jim	RB	6-3/240	3	11/28/53	Iowa	11
32	Keyworth, J.	RB	6-3/230	5	12/15/50	Colorado	11
	Kindle, G.	G	6-4/265	5	9/16/50	Tenn. St.	*1
41	Lytle, Rob	RB	6-1/195	2	11/12/54	Michigan	14
66	Manor, B.	DE	6-4/248	2	8/10/52	Arkansas	13
50	Maples, Bobby	C	6-3/250	14	12/28/42	Baylor	14
74	Maurer, A.	T	6-3/265	9	9/30/48	Oregon	13
71	Minor, C.	T	6-4/280	5	4/21/51	S.Diego St.	14
52	Montler, M.	C	6-4/250	10	1/11/44	Colorado	14
7	Morton, C.	QB	6-4/210	14	2/5/43	California	14
25	Moses, Haven	WR	6-2/200	11	7/27/46	S.Diego St.	14
58	Nairne, R.	LB	6-4/220	2	3/24/54	Oregon St.	13
88	Odoms, R.	TE	6-4/230	7	3/1/50	Houston	14
23	Pane, Chris	S	5-11/180	2	5/19/53	Chico St.	11
12	Penrose, C.	QB	6-3/205	3	7/25/53	S.Diego St.	8
35	Perrin, L.	RB	6-1/222	3	2/3/52	Illinois	14
21	Poltl, R.	S	6-3/190	5	3/26/52	Stanford	14
40	Rich, Randy	CB-S	5-10/181	2	12/28/53	New Mexico	*0
26	Riley, L.	CB-S	5-10/195	2	11/21/54	Salem	5
59	Rizzo, J.	LB	6-1/220	5	12/17/50	Mer. Mar. Aca.	13
67	Schindler, S.	G	6-3/260	2	7/24/54	BC	14
86	Schultz, J.	WR	5-10/182	3	6/10/53	Maryland	14
70	Smith, Paul	DT	6-3/256	11	8/13/45	New Mexico	12
51	Swenson, B.	LB	6-3/220	4	7/1/53	California	14
36	Thompson, B.	S	6-1/200	10	10/10/46	Maryland St.	14
55	Turk, G.	LB	6-3/230	5	10/15/50	Southern	13
15	Turner, J.	K	6-2/205	15	3/28//41	Utah St.	14
80	Upchurch, r.	WR	5-10/170	4	5/20/52	Minnesota	14
14	Weese, N.	QB	6-1/195	3	8/12/51	Mississippi	14
20	Wright, L.	CB	6-2/195	4	1/31/53	San Jose St.	14

*Allison played 8 games with St. Louis, 3 with Denver; Kindle played 1 game with Atlanta; Rich signed before regular season finale and played in 3 post-season games.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

1978 Schedule

9/3	at Seattle	1:00
9:10	OAKLAND	1:00
9/17	at Denver	2:00
9/24	GREEN BAY	1:00
10/1	at New Eng.	1:00
10/8	DENVER	1:00
10/15	MIAMI	1:00
10/22	at Detroit	1:00
10/29	at Oakland	1:00
11/5	CINCINNATI	1:00
11/12	KANSAS CITY	1:00
11/19	at Minnesota	1:00
11/26	at Kansas City	1:00
12/4	CHI. (Mon.)	6:00
12/10	SEATTLE	1:00
12/17	at Houston	3:00

1977 Results

9/18	Oakland (-13½)	0-24
9/25	at K. C. (-3)	23-7
10/2	CINN. (-6½)	24-3
10/9	at N. O. (P'K)	14-0
10/16	N. E. (P'K)	20-24
10/23	K. C. (+9)	16-21
10/30	at Miami (-5½)	14-13
11/6	at Detroit (+4)	0-20
11/13	DENVER (-3½)	14-17
11/20	OAK. (-13)	12-7
11/27	at Seattle (+7)	30-28
12/4	CLEVE. (-4)	37-14
12/11	at Denver (-6½)	9-17
12/18	PITTS. (+3)	9-10

There were times in the 1977 season when the San Diego Chargers seemed to be of playoff caliber. In fact, give the Chargers 26 points in the right set of circumstances and the club's record in the fourth year of Tommy Prothro's tenure could well have been equal (12-2) to that of the Broncos.

No wonder the Chargers are a particular favorite of prognosticators of opinion that San Diego could very well be the dark horse candidate of the '78 AFC race.

Statistically, the team's improvement from 1976 to 1977 was just as impressive. Defensively, the Chargers were 80 points better than the year before and the team's play against both the run and the pass improved gradually. The Charger pass rush was particularly effective. Led by Louie Kelcher and Leroy Jones, this unit's assault on opposing passers resulted in a near-doubling of QB traps from 23 the year before to a total of 44 which was enough to put the Chargers near the top of the defensive stat list.

There was a corresponding improvement in the offensive line's ability to protect the passer. Despite having to block for three different starters—James Harris, Cliff Olander and Dan Fouts—the Charger pass protection limted QB sacks to 24 as opposed to 46 the season before

After several years of draft neglect under the stewardship of former coach and GM Harland Svare, the Chargers have returned to utilizing the draft with a vengeance. In the last three seasons, Prothro and Johnny Sanders have added 25 players via the draft. Such number is one less than the Bengals' league leading total of 26.

Prothro, who was reported to be considering retirement, opted for a one-year extension of his contract and no doubt, this will be his final season with the Chargers, especially since Don Coryell, a local favorite when at San Diego State, has returned home to spend his Cardinal pay checks.

Consequently, Prothro could wind up on the hot seat mainly because of the fact that the Chargers will have one of the most difficult schedules in the league. San Diego will have a total of 10 games against winning teams. Gene Klein and Don Coryell will be watching the results with a great deal of interest.

QUARTERBACK: The return of Dan Fouts after a long holdout due to contractual problems gave Prothro some immediate help last season because of injuries to James Harris and Bill Munson. It will also give him problems this season because of the coming duel between Harris and Fouts. Harris, obtained from the Rams at considerable cost, had a rather inconsistent season. There were times when he was very good and times when he was less effective. Harris finished with a QB rating of 56.0. Fouts, who did not qualify for the final rankings because of limited playing time, did manage to finish with a completion percentage of 63.3 while throwing one less (4) TD passes and five less interceptions than did Harris. Cliff Oleander appears to have some talent and could develop into a fair back-up prospect.

GRADE B+

RUNNING BACK: Rickey Young and Don Woods maintained their starting status despite challenges from Joe Washington and Bo Matthews, a pair of number one draft choices who have been somewhat disappointing. Young remains the club's most productive (543 yards, 3.5 avg.) runner who can also catch (48 receptions) the ball rather well. Woods is another valuable performer and finished with 405 yards rushing. Speedy Joe Washington, perhaps inhibited by after effects of knee surgery, did not run from scrimmage with the kind of effectiveness he showcased at Oklahoma, but did manage to play an important role as a pass receiver. Bo Matthews did not carry the ball very much but still posted the team's best avg. with a 4.5 figure per carry. Chargers feel they have quality back-up help in person of Clarence Williams and Larry Barnes.

GRADE B+

RECEIVERS: Charlie Joiner remains the class of the Charger passing attack. Former Bengal again proved his pro bowl credentials with 35 catches, six scores and an impressive 15.5 average per catch. Johnny Rodgers, hamstrung with injury problems, was considerably less than a Superstar but the Chargers are confident that he will be much improved provided he is in excellent physical shape. Team appears to be a bit thin in terms of outside depth with Dwight McDonald the number one reserve. Chargers have a pair of capable TEs in former Ram duo of Bob Klein and Pat Curran who combined for total of 30 receptions. Larry Dorsey, the team's third round draft choice from Tenn. State, was handicapped by injuries but still showed impressive bursts of speed in catching 10 passes for a 19.8 average.

GRADE B

OFFENSIVE LINE: Most improved area of the Charger offense. Doug Wilkerson is a superb guard who excels at pulling for the sweep as well as providing quality pass protection. Don Macek proved to be an able performer at right guard while Ralph Perretta played well enough at center to keep top draft pick Bob Rush on the bench. Billy Shields and Russ Washington are better than adequate at tackle. Washington, once a premier performer, seems to have slipped from all-pro status. Booker Brown lone talented reserve. Club needs to add depth.

GRADE A-

DEFENSIVE LINE: Improvement here was main reason why Chargers assumed role of spoilers if not legitimate contenders. The emergence of Louie Kelcher, Gary Johnson, Leroy Jones and Fred Dean gives San Diego its most effective defensive front line since the championship era of Faison and Ladd. Kelcher is the team's brightest defensive star and is adept at defending against the run while developing into a very aggressive pass rusher. Fred Dean, a number two pick in 1975, is the most underrated of the quartet while Leroy Jones continues to develop into the kind of pass rushing terror that earned him all CFL honors. Team could use some talented depth here as well.

GRADE A

LINEBACKERS: Underrated unit. Woodrow Lowe has played aggressive, hard-hitting football and may be the most improved linebacker in the game. Don Goode handles the strong side assignment and is effective against the run. Tom Graham does okay at MLB against the run but club needs to improve here to make serious move against Broncos and Raiders. Bob Horn, a number four pick last year, could play his way into the starting lineup. Rick Middleton, a former number one selection of the Saints, continues to disappoint.

GRADE B-

SECONDARY: Chargers finished with one of top rated AFC defensive units against the pass. Cornerbacks Mike Williams and Hal Stringert were picked on consistently, but Williams is pro bowl material and played some outstanding football. Stringert had four interceptions, one less than Mike Fuller's club leading total of five. Fuller and Clarence Duren form most underrated last line of defense in the AFC. Jerome Dove and David Shaw have natural ability and Chargers feel fortunate to have such talented reserves.

GRADE A-

KICKING GAME: Rolf Bernischke proved to be timely waiver pick up from Raiders and his late season string of FG successes must have had Al Davis shaking his head. Bernischke, who ranked ninth in kick scoring, finished with a total of 72 points and connected on 17 of 23 three point attempts. Jeff West remains a recycled punter and Cliff Oleander may be better here. Rodgers and Washington, provided they remain completely healthy, could give Chargers dynamite return game. Clarence Williams (20.0 avg.) could be factor as well.

GRADE B-

COACHING: Al Davis kept saying that it wouldn't be long before Prothro would have this team challenging Oakland and Denver. Prothro, who is devoted follower of building a team through the draft, signed one year contractual extension and may well opt for retirement following conclusion of 1978 season. Too bad, he's done an excellent job in reshaping what was downtrodden franchise.

GRADE B+

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Rickey Young	157	543	3.5	15	4

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Mike Fuller	5	61	12.2	37	0

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Mike Fuller	28	2	360	12.9	88	1

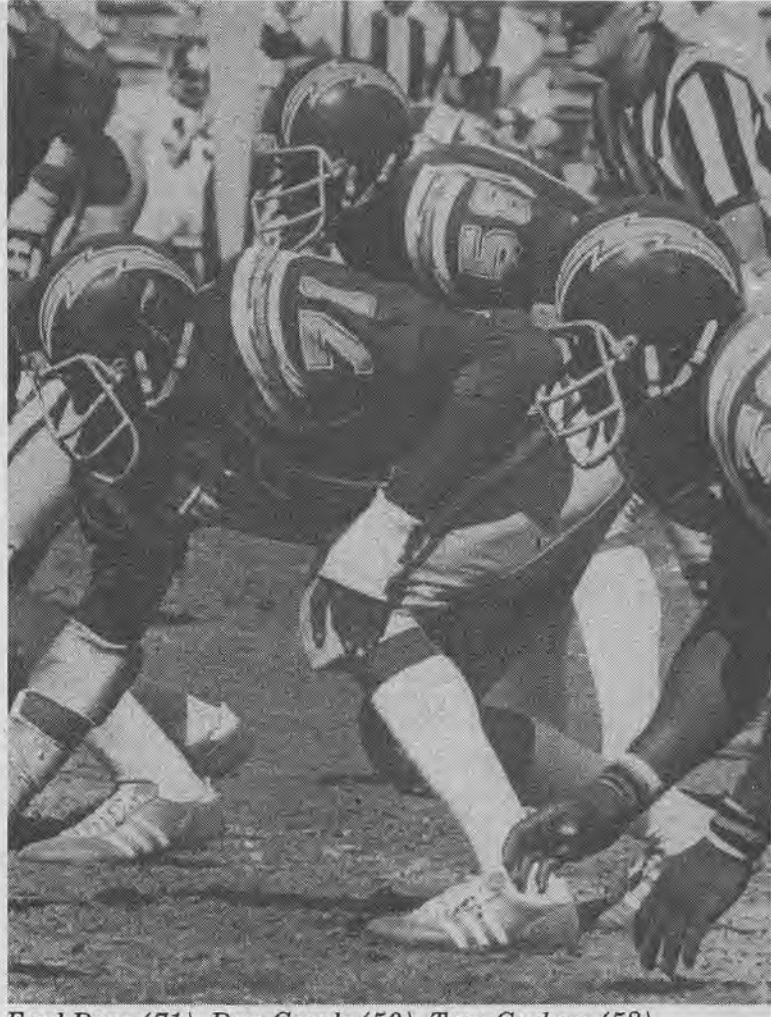
PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
J. Harris	211	109	51.7	1240	5	11	5.2
D. Fouts	109	69	63.3	869	4	6	5.5

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Rickey Young	48	423	8.8	28	0

KICK-OFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Clarence Williams	24	481	20.0	32	0

PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
Jeff West	72	2707	59	37.6

SCORING	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Rolf Bernirschke	21	24	17	23	72



Fred Dean (71), Don Goode (50), Tom Graham (58).

FRONT OFFICE: Prothro would be first to admit that he has had considerable help from front office staff headed by G.M. Johnny Sanders and his assistant, Paul 'Tank' Younger, the former Ram tandem. Red Phillips continues as Director of Player Personnel. Gene Klein flamboyant owner whose best moves have been to turn over the day-to-day operation of the franchise to Prothro and Sanders.

GRADE A-

PREDICTION: Chargers rate distinct role of spoilers and could even be wild-card threat despite tough slate that includes games against contenders like the Bears, Bengals, Oilers, Vikings, Dolphins and Patriots in addition to the four divisional meetings with Denver and Oakland.

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
64	Aiu,Charles	G	6-2/254	3	5/22/54	Hawaii	14
35	Barnes,L.	RB	5-11/220	2	7/17/54	Tenn. St.	5
37	Bauer,H.	RB	5-10/195	2	7/15/54	Cal Luthern	13
6	Benirschke,R.	K	6-0/165	2	2/7/55	Cal-Davis	14
65	Brown,B.	T	6-2/257	3	9/25/52	USC	6
46	Colbert,D.	CB	5-11/176	4	12/15/50	Tulsa	*0
82	Curran,P.	TE	6-3/238	10	9/21/45	Lakeland	14
71	Dean,F.	DE	6-3/228	4	9/24/52	LSU	11
73	DeJurnett,C.	DT	6-4/270	3	6/17/52	San Jose St.	11
87	Dorsey,L.	WR	6-1/195	3	8/15/53	Tenn. St.	13
48	Dove,J.	CB	6-0/186	2	10/3/53	Colorado St.	14
21	Duren,C.	S	6-1/190	6	12/9/50	California	14
14	Fouts,Dan	QB	6-3/204	6	6/10/51	Oregon	4
42	Fuller,M.	S	5-9/188	4	4/7/53	Auburn	14
50	Goode,D.	LB	6-2/225	5	6/21/51	Kansas	14
58	Graham,T.	LB	6-2/235	7	4/15/50	Oregon	12
12	Harris,J.	QB	6-4/217	9	7/20/47	Grambling	9
55	Horn,B.	LB	6-3/237	3	2/6/54	Oregon St.	14
11	†Jeffrey,N.	QB	6-0/180	2	7/23/52	Baylor	*0
79	Johnson,G.	DT	6-2/254	4	8/31/52	Grambling	14
18	Joiner,C.	WR	5-11/188	10	10/14/47	Grambling	14
68	Jones,L.	DE	6-8/265	3	9/29/50	Norfolk St.	14
74	Kelcher,L.	DT	6-5/282	4	2/17/53	SMU	12
84	Klein,B.	TE	6-5/245	10	7/27/47	USC	12
69	Lee,J.	DE	6-2/253	3	2/17/53	Nebraska	12
51	Lowe,W.	LB	6-0/227	3	6/9/54	Alabama	14
62	Macek,D.	G	6-3/253	3	7/21/54	BC	14
41	Matthews,Bo	RB	6-4/230	5	11/15/51	Colorado	12
89	McDonald,D.	WR	6-2/187	4	5/24/51	San Diego St.	11
57	†Middleton,R.	LB	6-2/228	5	11/28/51	Ohio State	14
19	†Munson,B.	QB	6-2/205	15	8/11/41	Utah St.	4
10	Olander,C.	P-QB	6-5/196	2	4/22/55	NMS	5
85	Owens,A.	WR	5-10/174	3	1/14/53	UWV	11
53	Perretta,R.	C	6-2/250	4	1/30/53	Purdue	14
52	Preston,R.	LB	6-0/215	3	1/25/54	Syracuse	11
20	Rodgers,J.	WR-RB	5-10/180	2	7/5/51	Nebraska	11
56	Rush,B.	C	6-5/258	2	2/27/55	Memphis St.	14
44	Shaw,P.	S	5-10/184	2	8/25/54	Northwestern	14
66	Shields,B.	T	6-7/254	4	8/23/53	Georgia Tech	13
45	Stringert,H.	CB	5-11/185	4	1/25/52	Hawaii	14
24	Washington,J.	RB	5-10/182	3	9/24/53	Oklahoma	13
70	Washington,R.	T	6-7/290	11	12/17/46	Missouri	14
80	West,J.	P-TE	6-3/211	4	4/6/53	Cincinnati	14
63	Wilkerson,D.	G	6-3/257	9	3/27/47	NCC	14
40	Williams,C.	RB	5-9/188	2	1/25/55	So.Caro.	14
20	Williams,M.	CB	5-10/180	4	11/22/53	LSU	10
33	Woods,D.	RB	6-1/209	5	2/17/51	New Mexico	14
34	Young,R.	RB	6-2/198	4	12/7/53	Jackson St.	14

*Colbert missed '77 season due to injury; Jeffrey active for 1 game but did not play. †Option playout; subject to developments.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

1978 Schedule		
9/3	SAN DIEGO	1:00
9/10	at Pittsburgh	1:00
9/17	at N.Y. Jets	1:00
9/24	DETROIT	1:00
10/1	at Denver	2:00
10/8	MINNESOTA	1:00
10/15	at G.B.(Milw.)	1:00
10/22	OAKLAND	1:00
10/29	DENVER	1:00
11/5	at Chicago	1:00
11/12	BALTIMORE	1:00
11/19	at Kansas City	1:00
11/26	at Oakland	1:00
12/3	CLEVELAND	1:00
12/10	at San Diego	1:00
12/17	KANSAS CITY	1:00

1977 Results		
9/18	BALT. (-14)	14-29
9/25	at Cinn. (-20)	20-42
10/2	DENVER (-15)	13-24
10/9	at N.E. (-20)	0-31
10/16	TAMPA (+2)	30-23
10/23	at Miami (-16)	13-31
10/30	BUFF. (-3½)	56-17
11/6	at Oak. (-20)	7-44
11/13	at Jets (-9½)	17-0
11/20	HOUS. (-6½)	10-22
11/27	S.D. (-7)	28-30
12/4	at Pitts. (-20)	20-30
12/11	at K.C. (-6)	34-31
12/18	CLEVE. (+3½)	20-19

Improvement was they key-note of the Seahawks' second season, and if the club continues to build with the foresight and thoroughness evidenced thus far, then competitiveness with most teams in the NFL may well be within immediate reach.

Following the conclustion of Seattle's 5-9 schedule (best-ever record by a second-year expansion team), Jack Patera, the former defensive aide to Bud Grant at Minnesota, was rewarded for his fine sideline leadership with a renewal of his contract which was extended until 1980.

The supposed risky draft-day decision to give up the second selection in the opening round to Dallas was rewarded via the impressive performances of most of the players obtained via the parcel of premium draft picks received from the Cowboys. While Steve August was hindered by injuries, Terry Beeson, Tom Lynch and Pete Cronan made their presence felt in what proved to be a significant upgrading of the overall Seahawk starting lineup. And, the acquisition of Duke Ferguson proved to be a shrewd move as well.

Statistically, the team was much improved on both sides of the ball. The team's point differential dropped from 200 to -83, one of the best ratio's in the league. That's not to say the Seahawk defense is threatening to shut down most opposing offensive attacks, but the infusion of talent in this area figures to give Patera better tools with which to renew his fine reputation as a defensive strategist. The club's rushing game, up from 101 yards per contest in the maiden season to an impressive 140.3 mark could hardly have been better if the Seahawks had opted to keep the rights to Dorsett. And, if Jim Zorn can cut down on his alarmingly high interception ratio, the Seattle passing game will be a constant strength as well.

QUARTERBACK: Seahawks appear to be in superb shape here with fine pair of young passers. Jim Zorn has great arm but must curb tendency to put the ball up for grabs. Former Cowboy free agent (cut to make room for Preston Pearson in 1975), Zorn has improved handily in almost every other phase of field generalship. Despite last place ranking in AFC passing charts, primarily because of 7.6% on interceptions, Zorn has fine feel for pattern play, especially when throwing in the direction of Steve Largent. Steve Myer proved to be quite capable in relief when Zorn was sidelined with injuries and finished with a 53.8% completion ration, while accounting for 729 yards and six TDs. It is unusual to see an expansion club so strong at this key spot.

GRADE B+

RUNNING BACK: Rushing game was much improved primarily because of fine performance turned in by Sherman Smith. Another of the team's quality second round draft choices, Smith followed up a productive rookie season with an even better showing in 1977. Smith rushed for 763 yards on an average of 4.7 (highest mark in the AFC) per carry while doubling as an effective receiver. Don Testerman has great size and seems to bounce off tacklers, especially when he breaks free in the open field. Al Hunter, acquired in the supplemental draft, did well enough in his debut and will contribute even more in double duty role as RB and KR. David Sims, a seventh round selection from Georgia, proved he can contribute as well. Ed Marianro signed on late in the season and could be a factor if healthy.

GRADE B-

RECEIVERS: Steve Largent enjoyed second consecutive productive season and one must wonder why the Oilers ever let him go. Bargain acquisition led team with 33 receptions for 19.5 average and ten scores. Jerry Rhome, who coached Largent at Tulsa, should be credited for convincing Patera to make the deal with Houston. Duke Ferguson, a throw-in component in the Dorsett deal, added speed to Seahawk aerial attack with impressive 19.7 average on 19 catches. Ron Howard, yet another former Cowboy, proved to be a quality starter at TE. Sam McCullum, if fully recovered from knee troubles, will help solve need for quality depth.

GRADE B+

OFFENSIVE LINE: Veteran unit afforded Zorn and Myer fairly effective brand of pass protection. Will be coached by former SF stalwart Howard Mudd. A need for improved overall quickness in order to propel outside running attack. Tom Lynch, despite prolonged contractual problems, came in and formed younger nucleus with Art Kuehn. Norm Evans contributed respectable performance while Ron Coder (former Steeler) moved over to guard and did okay. Nick Bebout and Gordon Jolley are the other tackles. Last year's number one pick, Steve August, should move into the starting lineup once he has recovered from college ailments. John Yarno and Geoff Reece could press Kuehn for starting center spot.

GRADE C+

DEFENSIVE LINE: New line coach Jim Moura, late of the Huskies, will have tough job in this area. Team is in need of significant improvement in pressuring the passer (sacks against opposing QBs dropped from paltry '76 total of 27 to even more embarrassing mark of 18). Front line consists of Alden Roche, Richard Harris, Ron East and Bob Lurtsema. Steve Niehaus, the club's initial first round selection from two seasons ago, has been injury prone and shoulder problems have hindered his development. Former ND star must make major contribution. Bill Sandifer, one-time first round selection of the 49ers, and Horace Jones, formerly with Oakland, could help if they manage to recover from injured reserve status.

GRADE D+

LINEBACKERS: Most talented area of thin Seahawk defense. Sammy Green is tough against both the run and the pass. Ken Geddes played up to the form he showed with Rams before getting hurt. Terry Beeson made several all-rookie teams at MLB while Pete Cronan, the other second rounder, was the team's top reserve and should press Geddes in training camp. Depth, in the person of free agents Charles McShane and Mike Lee, could stand improvement.

GRADE B

SECONDARY: Seahawks remain confident that this veteran unit's performance will improve dramatically once the club's anemic pass rush is upgraded. Dave Brown, a one time Steeler first round pick who was imported via the expansion draft, proved capable of making the big play on the corner and will be even better with more consistency. Eddie McMillan, who joined team via same expansion route as Brown, has been a steady performer and played

up to the form he expressed while a regular with the Rams. Autry Beemon, picked up from the Vikings, took over the FS spot and led the club with six interceptions. Steve Preece completes back line of Seahawk secondary. Don Dufek main reserve and could press for starting berth.

GRADE C+

KICKING GAME: Seahawks made pair of early round draft mistakes in maiden season as both Don Bitterlich and Rick Eagles wound up on the waiver wire. Free agent successors, John Leypoldt and Herman Weaver, gave Patera quality veteran performance in both phases of the kicking game. Al Hunter and Duke Ferguson will share most of the return duties.

GRADE C+

COACHING: Patera did admirable job with thinly talented defense and received ultimate passing grade from Herman Sarkowsky and John Thompson via extension of his contract until 1980. Club's offensive staff proved to be excellent in getting the most out of players such as Zorn, Myer and Largent. Jerry Rhome is the man behind successful Seahawk passing attack. Larry Peccatiello turned in same kind of performance with linebacking group. Newly appointed Howard Mudd and Jim Mura face challenge of improving both phases of line play.

GRADE A-

FRONT OFFICE: Managing General Partner Herman Sarkowsky is seeking completion of unique sports double. Credited with building successful NBA franchise in Portland, Sark is qualified owner and good businessman.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Sherman Smith	163	763	4.7	39	4

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Authy Beamon	6	36	6.0	20	0

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Walter Packer	20	0	131	6.6	31	0

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
Jim Zorn	251	104	41.4	1687	16	19	7.6

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Steve Largent	33	643	19.5	74	10

KICK-OFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Al Hunter	36	820	22.8	41	0

PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
Herman Weaver	58	59	39.5	31.8

SCORING	TD	TDR	TDP	PTS
Steve Largent	10	0	10	60

SCORING	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
John Leypoldt	33	37	9	18	60

Jim Zorn led Seahawks to record five wins in '77.

G.M. John Thompson handles administration of his duties with fine sense of balance and has been instrumental in club's successful approach to the draft. Talent department is run by Dick Mansparger with Chuck Allen (former Charger MLB) handling pro personnel work. Mark Duncan another capable front office executive.

GRADE B+

PREDICTION: Despite last year's surprising 5-9 mark will be difficult to match because Seahawks must play Broncos, Raiders and Chargers a total of six times in home and home series. However, club is better than the Chiefs and should match fourth place finish of a year ago.

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
12	Adkins,S.	QB	6-2/214	2	5/21/55	Wichita St.	1
76	August,S.	T	6-5/254	2	9/4/54	Tulsa	6
27	†Beamon,A.	S	6-1/190	4	11/12/53	E.Tex.St.	14
63	†Bebout,N.	T	6-5/260	6	5/5/51	Wyoming	12
58	Beeson,T.	LB	6-3/240	2	9/19/55	Kansas	14
31	Benjamin,T.	RB	6-3/225	2	10/27/55	Duke	6
68	Boyd,D.	DT	6-6/225	2	11/5/55	Oregon St.	14
22	Brown,D.	CB	6-1/190	4	1/16/53	Michigan	14
60	Coder,R.	G	6-4/250	3	5/24/54	Penn St.	14
52	Coffield,R.	LB	6-3/215	2	12/13/53	Fla. St.	*0
57	Cronan,P.	LB	6-2/238	2	1/13/55	Boston Col.	14
25	†Dufek,D.	S	6-0/195	3	4/28/54	Michigan	13
74	†East,Ron	DT	6-4/248	11	8/26/43	Montana St.	14
73	Evans,Norm	T	6-5/250	14	9/28/42	Tex.Chrstn	13
89	Fergerson,D.	WR	6-1/193	2	4/21/53	S. Digeo St.	13
36	Geddes,K.	LB	6-3/235	8	9/27/47	Nebraska	14
56	Green,S.	LB	6-2/230	3	10/12/54	Florida	14
77	Harris,R.	DE	6-5/258	8	1/21/48	Grambling	14
87	Howard,R.	TE	6-4/240	5	3/3/51	Seattle	12
24	Hunter,Al	RB	5-11/195	2	2/21/55	Notre Dame	12
64	Jolley,G.	T	6-5/245	7	5/22/49	Utah	13
79	†Jones,H.	DE	6-4/260	7	7/31/49	Louisville	1
53	Jones,M.	LB	6-3/224	2	7/12/54	Jackson St.	12
54	Kuehn,A.	C	6-3/255	3	2/21/53	UCLA	14
80	Largent,S.	WR	5-11/184	3	9/28/54	Tulsa	14
3	Leypoldt,J.	K	6-2/230	8	3/31/46	No college	13
70	†Lurtsema,B.	DT	6-6/250	12	3/29/42	West.Mich.	14
61	Lynch,T.	G	6-5/260	2	5/24/55	Boston Col.	14
49	†Marinaro,E.	RB	6-2/207	7	3/31/50	Cornell	1
50	†Martin,A.	LB	6-3/228	7	1/30/49	Louisville	2
84	McCullum,S.	WR	6-2/203	5	11/30/52	Montana St.	13
41	McMillan,E.	CB	6-0/190	6	11/25/51	FSU	14
59	McShane,C.	LB	6-3/230	2	1/4/54	Cal.Luthrn	14
16	Myer,St.	QB	6-2/188	3	7/17/54	New Mexico	7
78	Newton,B.	G	6-5/260	8	8/16/49	Nebraska	13
71	Niehaus,S.	DE	6-4/255	3	9/25/54	Notre Dame	8
20	Preece,S.	S	16-1/195	10	2/15/47	Oregon St.	14
83	Raible,S.	WR	6-2/195	3	6/2/54	Georg.Tech	14
55	Reece,G.	C	6-4/247	3	5/16/52	Wash.St.	3
75	†Roche,A.	DE	6-4/255	9	5/9/45	Southern	13
66	Sandifer,B.	DT	6-6/260	5	1/5/52	UCLA	1
81	Sawyer,J.	TE	6-2/230	4	7/26/53	So.Miss.	14
35	Sims,D.	RB	6-3/216	2	10/26/55	Georg.Tech	14
47	Smith,Sherman	RB	6-4/225	3	11/1/54	Miami,O.	14
42	Testerman,D.	RB	6-2/230	3	11/7/52	Clemson	14
18	Weaver,H.	P	6-4/210	9	11/17/48	Tennessee	13
38	Webster,C.	S	6-0/180	2	11/2/54	Tulsa	14
51	Yarno,J.	C	6-5/251	2	12/17/54	Idaho	10
10	Zorn,Jim	QB	6-2/200	3	5/10/53	Cal Ply-Pma	10

*Coffield missed '77 season due to injury.
†Option playout; subject to developments.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

1978 Schedule		
9/3	at Cincinnati	1:00
9/10	HOUSTON	1:00
9/17	at N.Y. Giants	1:00
9/24	DENVER	1:00
10/1	at Buffalo	1:00
10/8	TAMPA BAY	1:00
10/15	at Oakland	1:00
10/22	CLEVELAND	1:00
10/29	at Pittsburgh	1:00
11/5	OAKLAND	1:00
11/12	at San Diego	1:00
11/19	SEATTLE	1:00
11/26	SAN DIEGO	1:00
12/3	BUFFALO	1:00
12/10	at Denver	2:00
12/17	at Seattle	1:00

1977 Results		
9/18	at N.E. (-12½)	17-21
9/25	S. D. (+3)	7-23
10/3	OAK. (-13½)	28-37
10/9	at Den. (-10½)	7-23
10/16	BALT. (-13)	6-17
10/23	at S.D. (-9)	21-16
10/30	at Cleve. (-9½)	7-44
11/6	GR. BAY (+5)	20-10
11/13	at Chi. (-6½)	27-28
11/20	DENVER (-7½)	7-14
11/27	at Hous. (-9½)	20-34
12/4	CINN (-7)	7-20
12/11	SEA. (+6)	31-34
12/18	at Oak. (-13)	20-21

After three successive 5-9 campaigns, the last two of which were played under the congenial stewardship of Paul Wiggin, the once mighty Kansas City Chiefs suffered the worst season (2-12) in the eighteen year history of what was once one of the most successful franchises in the sport.

Wiggin, who was dismissed midway through the season after the club mixed an 0-5 start with a horrid and totally embarrassing whipping at the hands of the Browns, was replaced by Tom Bettis. After winning his debut against the Packers, Bettis, whose secondary was the best coached unit on this team, found life just as difficult as did Wiggin.

The Chiefs wasted no time in making a decision on Bettis' interim status, and two days after the season was completed, he was bounced. Lamar Hunt, once again heavily influenced by G.M. Jim Schaaf and team president Jack Steadman, took less than two weeks to name Marv Levy, winner of Canada's Grey Cup at Montreal, as his fourth head coach since 1974.

Levy, who was recommended to the Chiefs by George Allen for whom he worked as special teams coach in Washington, is noted for his analytical approach to the game and for his penchant for preparedness.

Considering the lack of quality defensive talent on a unit that was horrible against the run, Levy will no doubt spend a lot of time looking for help. To illustrate just how poor the Chiefs defense has been across the last two seasons, one needs only to know that the club has allowed an average of over 200 yards rushing per game while permitting a total of 725 points. By the time the 1978 season draws to a close, Levy will no doubt wish he could have taken that twelfth man facet of Canadian Football with him.

QUARTERBACK: Last year was supposed to be the season when Mike Livingston would emerge as a poised, effective and productive veteran passer who finally delivered on his vast potential. Handicapped by nagging injuries and a maddening inconsistency, Livingston dropped to eleventh place in the individual AFC QB ratings with a ranking of 59.8. The former SMU star barely completed half of his passes and wound up with an interception percentage of 5.3 on 15 miscues. Consequently, the Chiefs were forced to take a longer look at Tony Adams. The former WFL passing leader continued to show some potential while serving in relief role, but must still be considered as an unknown quantity as a starter. Club may be in the market to bolster this vital position.

GRADE C

RUNNING BACK: Tony Reed, the club's gifted second round choice from Colorado, started off as though he would be the answer to the Chief's need for a power back gifted with speed. However, after the first month of the season, injuries and a tendency to lose the football caused a switch back to veteran Podolak. The latter finished as the club's leading rusher (550 yards, 4.1 avg.) but it is doubtful whether or not Ed will be back for his tenth season. If not, the Chiefs will lack depth and quality in football's most attrition prone position. MacArthur Lane and John Brockington may be reunited in Chiefs backfield, but the chances of this occuring are slim. Lane missed most of the season with a troublesome shoulder injury, while Brockington was signed as a free agent. Woody Green, a former number one pick, was waived mid-way through the season. That leaves Mark Bailey and former Raider rookie hopeful, Ted McKnight, as the main reserves.

GRADE C+

RECEIVERS: Remains the strength of the offense. Walter White, who again led the club in receiving with 48 catches good for five TDs and an impressive 14.0 avg., is an excellent receiver but doesn't like to block all that much. Henry Marshall is developing into a premium player who holds onto the ball over the middle. Larry Brunson, nicknamed Burner for obvious reasons, fell into disfavor because of a salary dispute and may be headed elsewhere. If so, team will be even thinner in this area.

GRADE B-

OFFENSIVE LINE: Improved somewhat over the second half of the season after having difficult time in protecting the passer during the early going. Jack Rudnay is still the best of a mediocre group that sometimes plays better than expected because of fine coaching of Joe Spencer, lone holdover from Wiggins's staff. Rudnay did not return to the pro bowl because of nagging injuries. Jim Nicholson is a leader and fairly decent tackle. Tom Condon battler at guard while Bob Simmons (Saint reject) finished the season ahead of disappointing Charlie Getty at the left guard spot. Former number one pick (1976) Rod Walters can't be blamed on Stram. Walters has yet to make meaningful contribution—and is seemingly injury prone.

GRADE C-

DEFENSIVE LINE: Chiefs have possibly the weakest set of defensive linemen in the league. Club was especially vulnerable to opposing running games and allowed 200 or more yards on 10 different occasions. Wilbur Young, mammouth defensive end who has been plagued with leg problems, has seemingly been wasted and is almost sure to be traded. Cliff Frazier, a number two pick in 1976, came back via waivers for second shot and wound up playing by default. Foots Lee and Whitney Paul are barely adequate while John Lohmeyer is a tough hitter who lacks size. Club is determined to rebuild this area through the draft. They've already failed once.

GRADE F

LINEBACKERS: Willie Lanier, Jim Lynch and Billy Andrews comprised oldest set of starting linebackers in the league. Lynch and Lanier have retired and Andrews may make similar decision. Consequently, club appears to be very thin here as well. Jimbo Elrod listed to take over in the middlbe but one wonders if his quickness is enough to offset lack of NFL size. Thomas Howard and Ray Burks appear to have talent and will no doubt get opportunity to play.

GRADE D

SECONDARY: Gary Green, last year's number one pick, enjoyed a fine season and played up to his impressive collegiate credentials. Still had problems covering quality receivers deep but Green has incredible natural ability and if club can generate better pass rush, Green's deep coverage will improve greatly. Tim Collier is the other corner with Emmitt Thomas, who may have been phased out too soon, expected back to give quality depth. Gary Barbaro, the club's top rookie in 1976, enjoyed another banner season at FS and ranked third in the NFL with eight interceptions, including a record setting 102

,ard TD return. Tim Gray, obtained from the Cardinals two seasons ago in the Sensibaugh trade, enjoyed his finest season as a pro and gave the club better than adequate service at SS.

GRADE B

KICKING GAME: Once a team strength, the dual kicking of Jerrel Wilson and Jan Stenerud has slipped considerably over the past two seasons. So much so, that Wilson is once again on the block, especially since Levy convinced front office to sign CFL star Zenon Audrushszyn. Special teams did not play as well as in the past. Tony Reed did play well early on but was plagued with fumbleitis. Larry Brunson can't handle full time receiver slot and double effectively as return guy. Ted McKnight averaged 25.4 on 12 returns and could develop into deep threat.

GRADE C

COACHING: Levy comes to Chiefs with fine reputation for discipline and intelligence. Front Office also feels Levy will supply more coaching presence as well. Attention to detail will upgrade team's preparedness level but lack of talent will handicap Levy in almost every area. Joe Spencer key man as offensive line coach while Walter Corey (former linebacker coach under Hank Stram) returns from three-year stint with the Browns.

GRADE C

FRONT OFFICE: Depends on one's point of view. No doubt Wiggin and Stram would give Steadman and Schaff failing marks, but Hunt is the man whose opinion counts.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Ed Podolak	133	550	4.1	41	5
Tony Reed	126	505	4.0	59	2

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Gary Barbard	8	165	20.6	102	1

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Gary Green	14	2	115	8.2	18	0

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
M.Livingston	282	143	50.7	1823	9	15	5.3

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Walter White	48	674	14.0	48	5

KICK-OFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Ted McKnight	12	305	25.4	70	0

PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
Jerrel Wilson	88	59	39.9	30.4

SCORING	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Jan Stenerud	27	28	8	18	51

Ed Podolak is reminder of Chiefs' glorious past.

Steadman excellent businessman and fine administrator who lacks feel for football decision and relationships with players. Schaff, whose role is often discounted by the media, is active G.M. who is growing factor in personnel policies. Les Miller, former Dolphin scout, has done well in his three-year stint as director of playing personnel. Team has begun to make strides in improving draft program (Chiefs have just one starter to show from their first round selections since 1970) and has added 17 players in last two seasons.

GRADE C+

PREDICTION: A Thin Red Line of talent will keep Chiefs mired in lower echelon of AFC West, and it will take considerable improvement for KC to move out of the basement and ahead of Seattle.

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
11	Adams, Tony	QB	6-0/198	4	3/19/50	Utah St.	14
53	Andrews, B.	LB	6-0/220	12	6/14/45	S.E. La.	14
56	Ane, Charlie	C	6-1/233	4	8/12/52	Mich. St.	14
39	Bailey, M.	RB	6-3/237	2	12/13/54	Cal St.-Lng Bch	14
26	Barbaro, G.	S	6-3/198	3	2/11/54	Nicholls St.	14
85	Beckman, Ed	TE	6-4/223	2	1/2/55	Fla. St.	14
43	†Brockington, J.	RB	6-1/225	8	9/7/48	Ohio St.	*11
83	†Brunson, L.	WR	5-11/180	5	8/11/49	Colorado	11
59	Burks, Ray	LB	6-2/217	2	3/9/55	UCLA	13
37	Collier, T.	CB	5-11/166	3	5/31/54	E. Tex. St.	9
65	Condon, T.	G	6-3/240	4	10/26/52	BCU	14
40	Davis, R.	CB-S	6-0/180	4	5/18/53	Alabama	13
	Edwards, E.	WR	6-1/190	3	6/6/52	Kansas	*0
57	Elrod, Jimbo	LB	6-0/223	3	5/25/54	Oklahoma	14
61	Frazier, C.	DT	6-4/265	2	11/23/52	UCLA	14
77	Getty, C.	G	6-4/260	5	7/24/52	Penn St.	14
46	Gray, Tim	S	6-1/200	4	11/11/52	Texas A&M	10
24	Green, Gary	CB	5-11/184	2	10/22/55	Baylor	11
62	Helton, D.	G	6-2/260	2	10/2/54	N.C. Central	6
60	Herkenhoff, M.	T	6-4/255	3	4/12/51	Minnesota	14
52	Howard, T.	LB	6-2/208	2	8/18/54	Texas Tech	13
42	Lane, MacArthur	RB	6-1/220	11	3/16/42	Utah St.	3
78	Lee, Willie	DT	6-4/250	3	7/13/50	Bethune-Ckmn	14
10	Livingston, M.	QB	6-4/210	11	11/14/45	SMU	13
	Lloyd, Jeff	DE	6-6/255	2	3/14/54	W. Tex. St.	*0
87	Lohmeyer, J.	DE	6-4/229	5	1/15/51	Emporia St.	14
22	McKnight, T.	RB	6-1/203	2	2/26/54	Minn.-Duluth	13
89	Marshall, H.	WR	6-2/205	3	8/9/54	Missouri	14
21	Morgado, A.	RB	6-0/210	2	3/27/52	Hawaii	14
70	Nicholson, J.	T	6-6/275	5	2/28/50	Mich. St.	12
64	Paul, Whitney	DE	6-3/220	3	10/8/53	Colorado	14
14	Podolak, Ed	RB	6-1/200	10	9/1/47	Iowa	13
32	Reed, Tony	RB	5-11/197	2	3/30/55	Colorado	14
55	Rozumek, D.	LB	6-1/212	3	4/25/54	New Hampshire	14
58	Rudnay, J.	C	6-3/240	9	11/20/47	N'thw'tn	14
81	Samuels, T.	Te	6-4/229	2	12/30/54	Bethune-Ckmn	14
73	Simmons, B.	T	6-4/260	2	7/7/54	Texas	14
72	Simons, Keith	DT	6-3/254	3	4/26/54	Minnesota	14
3	Stenerud, J.	K	6-2/187	12	11/26/43	Montana St.	14
18	Thomas, E.	CB	6-2/192	13	6/3/43	Bishop	14
6	Vitale, Mark	QB	6-5/209	2	7/13/55	Purdue	*0
84	Wade, Charlie	WR	5-9/160	4	2/23/50	Tenn. St.	5
76	Walters, Rod	G-T	6-3/258	2	2/27/54	Iowa	*0
25	Wesson, R.	CB-S	5-9/163	2	6/29/55	SMU	14
88	White, Walter	TE	6-3/218	4	7/19/51	Maryland	13
66	Wickert, Tom	G-T	6-4/252	5	4/5/52	WSU	*6
44	Wilson, J.	P	6-2/222	16	10/4/41	So. Miss	14
99	Young, W.	DE	6-6/290	8	4/20/49	William Penn	13

*Brockington played 1 game with Green Bay, 10 with Kansas City; Edwards and Lloyd last active with Buffalo in '76; Vitali active for 8 games but did not play; Walters missed '77 season due to injury; Wickert played 1 game with Detroit, 5 with Kansas City.
†Option playout; subject to developments.
Retired—Willie Lanier, Jim Lynch.

Madden, Switzer TOPS

By AL WILLIAMS

Oranges did in the nation's top pro and collegiate coaches in 1977, but even after they'd been crushed and peeled, John Madden and Barry Switzer could afford to manage a not-so-sour smile. Madden maintained his leadership among professional mentors while Switzer did the same in the college ranks.

Madden's Oakland Raiders bowed out of the second straight Super Bowl when Denver's "Orange Crush" defense stopped the Raiders when it counted while Switzer's dream for a National Championship ended in the Orange Bowl when his Sooners were slaughtered by Arkansas. Nevertheless, both had outstanding years.

Madden compiled a 12-4 mark, pushing his overall pro record to 103-32-7, a .763 percentage, tops among active NFL coaches with at least two years experience.

Since job security is not inherent in NFL coaching (there were 10 changes last year alone) only a two-year qualifying time is required. In the colleges, which seem to offer more security, five years is being used as a minimum.

Don Shula, winningest coach in the NFL, added 10 victories to his total in guiding the Miami Dolphins to a turnabout 10-4 mark. The Dolphs just missed the playoffs in a complicated NFL tie-breaking procedure, and Shula was lauded by friends and foes alike for his team's fine effort. Five rookies started for the '77 Dolphins.

Chuck Knox, who's likely to see his lofty percentage dip a bit now that he's assumed the chore of rebuilding the floundering Buffalo Bills, is in third place. The conservative Knox posted 57 victories, 20 defeats and one deadlock in his five-year stint in Los Angeles for a .740 win percentage.

George Allen, blown out of Washington by an ill wind from owner Bennett Williams, will feel the satisfying draft of collegiate talent in L.A. Allen, who left the Skins with nary a single draft choice until the eighth round this year, has all his picks in L.A. Such prosperity should only enhance Allen's fine 120-54-5 record. Allen, of course, has coached the Rams before, and little less than the Super Bowl will be expected or tolerated in this, his second go-round.

Ted Marchibroda has qualified the Colts for the playoffs in each of his three NFL campaigns but has been eliminated after round one each time. Still, Marchibroda had enough success to compile a 31-14 mark, fifth best percentage in the League at .688, scant percentage points behind the rah-rah Allen.

Bud Grant, Super Bowl defeats aside, has notched a 116-53-4 mark in his 11 years with the Vikings. The much-maligned head Norseman roughed up the Rams and qualified his Vikes for the NFC Championship last year, losing to the Cowboys. Always written off as too old, the Vikings continue to defy time—with or without Fran Tarkenton.

Cincinnati's Bill Johnson is a relative newcomer to the top ten, having just qualified this year. Johnson has an 18-10 record since taking over for Paul Brown in 1976.

Tom Landry has narrowed the gap to three victories behind Don Shula with 163 triumphs. Last year's Dallas team (15-2) was one of Landry's best and the dean of the NFL coaches (this is his 19th year) can look forward to more good tidings.

Chuck Noll, after suffering through some lean years with the Pittsburgh Steelers, has turned that franchise's fortune around and now stands in ninth place with 82 wins, 54 losses and one tie.

Bum Phillips, more through attrition then anything else, is in 10th place,. The Houston coach has a 23-19-0 mark in a trio of seasons.

TOP TEN ACTIVE NFL COACHES

Coach and Current Team	Yrs.	W	L	T	Pct.
John Madden, Oak.	9	103	32	7	.763
Don Shula, Miami	15	166	57	5	.744
Chuck Knox, Buffalo	5	57	20	1	.740
George Allen, L.A.	12	120	54	5	.689
Ted Marchibroda, Balt.	3	31	14	0	.688
Bud Grant, Minnesota	11	116	53	4	.686
Bill Johnson, Cinn.	2	18	10	0	.643
Tom Landry, Dallas	18	163	106	6	.606
Chuck Noll, Pitts.	9	82	54	1	.603
Bum Phillips, Houston	3	23	19	0	.547

Whenever Barry Switzer's Sooners lose it's an upset, but last season's two defeats were hardly shabby. Texas and Arkansas, both 11-1, were the conquerors and, although going 10-2 is practically a sin in Norman Oklahoma, at least the defeats were to quality opposition. Still, for Switzer, defeat is a rare thing, indeed. Just five times in as many years has the Sooner whiz been on the short end of the score. Since coming to Oklahoma, Switzer has won 51 games, lost five and tied two. That works out to an amazing .911 win percentage.

Those who know Oklahoma football predict that the end is nowhere in sight. The Sooners, with Switzer at the helm, continue to come up with remarkable football teams.

Joe Paterno, Penn State's quietly impressive and effective coach, has turned down several offers from professional teams and little wonder why. Paterno has an incredible 112-24-1 mark in 11 campaigns for an .824 percentage. It seems that each year it is up to Joe's Nittany Lions to maintain the "Pride of the East" tag hung on them. Paterno rarely disappoints.

Bo Schembechler, with another 10-2 campaign and defeat of Ohio State under his belt, checks in third. Bo's problems seem to be in post-season bowls where the Michigan Wolves have had little success lately.

Paul "Bear" Bryant, winningest coach with 273 triumphs, has moved into fourth place after Alabama's fine 11-1 season last year. The Bear has no thought of quitting as of yet and should add many more tallies to his impressive credentials again this year.

Frank Kush, entering his 20th year, has 164 victories, only 47 defeats and two ties for fifth place. The Arizona State mentor posted a 9-3 log last year with the Sun Devils.

Tom Osborne, who entered the Big Eight the same year as Switzer, has a 45-13 record at Nebraska.

Woody Hayes, the fiesty Ohio State coach, is in seventh place with 232 wins and a .773 percentage.

Dan Devine, fresh from a National Championship and an 11-1 mark, secures eighth place. The Notre Dame coach, who also had the head job at Green Bay for a while, has a .759 win percentage.

TOP EIGHT ACTIVE NCAA COLLEGE COACHES

Coach and Current Team	Yrs.	W	L	T	Pct.
Barry Switzer, Okla.	5	51	5	2	.911
Joe Paterno, Penn St.	11	112	24	1	.824
Bo Schembechler, Mich.	15	126	30	6	.808
Paul Bryant, Alabama	32	273	76	6	.782
Frank Kush, Arizona St.	19	164	47	2	.777
Tom Osborne, Nebraska	5	45	13	2	.776
Woody Hayes, Ohio St.	31	232	68	9	.773
Dan Devine, Notre Dame	19	148	47	8	.759

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Our 1977 Record - Against the Spread - Betting in Vegas

GAMES PLAYED WEEK OF	AMOUNT WAGERED ($300.00 A GAME)	GAMES WON-LOST	DOLLARS WON (LOST)	BANKROLL (STARTING WITH $2,500)
Sept. 11	$2,400	5 - 3	$510	$3,010
Sept. 18	2,700	6 - 3	810	3,820
Sept. 25	2,400	6 - 2	1,140	4,960
Oct. 2	3,000	6 - 4	480	5,440
Oct. 9	1,500	5 - 0	1,500	6,940
Oct. 16	3,300	8 - 3	1,410	8,350
Oct. 23	3,600	8 - 4	1,080	9,430
Oct. 30	2,100	5 - 2	840	10,270
Nov. 6	2,700	8 - 1	2,070	12,340
Nov. 13	1,800	2 - 4	(720)	11,620
Nov. 20	600	1 - 1	(30)	11,590
Nov. 27	600	2 - 0	600	12,190
Dec. 4	900	3 - 0	900	13,090
Dec. 11	600	1 - 1	(30)	13,060

EVERY STATEMENT IN THIS AD IS 100% TRUE AND IS DOCUMENTED BY OUR SELECTIONS IN EACH OF OUR WEEKLY ISSUES (OUR SUBSCRIBERS SAW IT HAPPEN EACH WEEK)

WINNERS SPORTS SERVICE IS No. 1 WITH A 10 YEAR RECORD OF BEATING THE SPREAD 69%!

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Five years ago we made up a character "Joe" and pretended to fly him to Vegas. Betting on Winners picks, Joe doubled his bankroll in 1973, tripled in 1974, made 5 times in 1975, 3 times in 1976, 5 times in 1977!

DR. DONALD SULLIVAN, PH.D — THE GENIUS BEHIND IT

Winners was founded by Dr. Donald Sullivan, Ph.D, a research psychologist and college professor with extensive knowledge in statistics, probability and advanced computer technology. He played football in college (he's a bruising 6'4"). He is renowned for expertise in sports predictions and recognized as one of the best sports predictors. He spoke at the Sports Handicapping Seminar in Las Vegas last year on the role of the computer in sports predicting. On the dais were Bob Martin, the man who makes the Vegas line, Mort Olshan of the Gold Sheet and Lem Banker, one of the country's heaviest bettors.

VEGAS LINE IN EACH ISSUE

We receive the Vegas line late Sunday night and print it in each issue. You can see Dr. Sullivan's line next to the Vegas line and can immediately tell what the good plays are.

CBS-TV FACTFINDER TEAM SURVEYS FOOTBALL PREDICTION SERVICES

On Sept. 9, 1977, WINNERS received a request from CBS-TV, Chicago Station WBBM Sports Factfinder Investigation Team to participate in their comparison of football prediction services. They requested each service to send them all back issues from 1976 plus the upcoming 5 issues for Oct. 1977. They would then analyze the results and air a report on the findings. Quoting from their letter: "If you truly have the confidence that your advertisements imply, this is the chance to prove yourself." We complied and the results of the survey were aired on CBS-TV on Nov. 14, 15 and 16. Overall, the report did not have too high an opinion of the services. The ones they checked averaged only 49.5% against the spread. One could have picked teams at random and done as well. The announcer then said the best service did 69% against the spread. As the TV camera focused in on the WINNERS AD, the announcer stated that this was the best service, one of the least expensive, and also offers a money-back guarantee. We, at Winners, are proud of this recognition, but we (and our subscribers) always knew we were the best.

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1977 NFL TEAM STATS

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

OFFENSE

	Atl.	Chi.	Dall.	Det.	G.B.	L.A.	Minn.	N.O.	N.Y.G.	Phil.	St.L.	S.F.	T.B.	Wash.
First Downs	198	247	272	218	195	270	245	223	201	211	247	219	168	227
Rushing	102	141	118	94	81	139	110	115	105	98	114	126	84	79
Passing	80	94	136	103	91	112	126	96	73	100	117	81	69	124
Penalty	16	12	18	21	23	19	9	12	23	13	16	12	15	24
Rushes	582	599	564	479	469	621	510	484	548	484	507	564	465	502
Net Yds. Gained	1890	2811	2369	1706	1464	2575	1821	2024	1897	1722	2042	2086	1424	1752
Avg. Gain	3.2	4.7	4.2	3.6	3.1	4.1	3.6	4.2	3.5	3.6	4.0	3.7	3.1	3.5
Avg. Yds. per Game	135.0	200.8	169.2	121.9	104.6	183.9	130.1	144.6	135.5	123.0	145.9	149.0	101.7	125.1
Passes Attempted	297	305	372	384	327	339	388	321	311	349	366	277	321	383
Completed	140	161	215	191	164	182	228	166	134	167	195	136	131	183
% Completed	47.1	52.8	57.8	49.7	50.2	53.7	58.8	51.7	43.1	47.9	53.3	49.1	40.8	47.8
Total Yds. Gained	1740	2070	2689	1959	2013	2253	2692	1933	1762	2198	2608	1797	1714	2284
Passer Tackled	40	26	33	54	32	25	35	46	46	47	15	36	48	52
Yds. Lost	384	226	246	441	265	237	324	360	375	342	109	289	445	421
Net Yds. Gained	1356	1844	2443	1518	1748	2016	2368	1573	1387	1856	2499	1508	1269	1863
Avg. Yds. per Game	96.9	131.7	174.5	108.4	124.9	144.0	169.1	112.4	99.1	132.6	178.5	107.7	90.6	133.1
Net Yds. per Pass Play	4.02	5.57	6.03	3.47	4.87	5.54	5.60	4.29	3.89	4.69	6.56	4.82	3.44	4.28
Yds. Gained per Comp.	12.43	12.86	12.51	10.26	12.27	12.38	11.81	11.64	13.15	13.16	13.37	13.21	13.08	12.48
Combined Net Yds. Gained	3246	4655	4812	3224	3212	4591	4189	3597	3284	3578	4541	3594	2693	3615
% Total Yds., Rushing	58.23	60.39	49.23	52.92	45.58	56.09	43.47	56.27	57.76	48.13	44.97	58.04	52.88	48.46
% Total Yds., Passing	41.77	39.61	50.77	47.08	54.42	43.91	56.53	43.73	42.24	51.87	55.03	41.96	47.12	51.54
Avg. Yds. per Game	231.9	332.5	343.7	230.3	229.4	327.9	299.2	256.9	234.6	255.6	324.4	256.7	192.4	258.2
Ball Control Plays	919	930	969	917	828	985	933	851	905	880	888	877	834	937
Avg. Yds. per Play	3.5	5.0	5.0	3.5	3.9	4.7	4.5	4.2	3.6	4.1	5.1	4.1	3.2	3.9
Had Intercepted	16	18	10	16	21	11	22	21	22	21	21	17	30	16
Yds. Opp. Returned	195	171	184	207	349	136	187	392	330	256	183	298	429	296
Ret. by Opp. for TD	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	4	2	0	1	1	3	1
Punts	106	82	83	101	86	73	83	87	100	95	72	80	99	91
Yds. Punted	4372	3232	3215	3655	3391	2568	3302	3569	3993	3463	2608	2801	3948	3502
Avg. Yds. per Punt	41.2	39.4	38.7	36.2	39.4	35.2	39.8	41.0	39.9	36.5	36.2	35.0	39.9	38.5
Punt Returns	59	47	61	42	38	51	58	37	46	50	40	48	48	57
Yds. Returned	402	471	545	345	321	360	346	281	446	518	300	292	359	452
Avg. Yds. Per Return	6.8	10.0	8.9	8.2	8.4	7.1	6.0	7.6	9.7	10.4	7.5	6.1	7.5	7.9
Returned for TD	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Kickoff Returns	34	57	44	58	51	33	45	63	54	45	59	49	43	47
Yds. Returned	621	1273	1071	1239	947	705	834	1355	1036	1110	1271	1174	914	1087
Avg. Yds. per Return	18.3	22.3	24.3	21.4	18.6	21.4	18.5	21.5	19.2	24.7	21.5	24.0	21.3	23.1
Returned for TD	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Penalties	101	97	106	86	82	89	75	86	91	78	95	99	88	94
Yds. Penalized	898	852	865	692	690	869	556	794	880	642	835	830	717	802
Fumbles	28	36	26	26	24	32	36	20	27	31	31	27	30	26
Lost	9	17	14	14	9	17	24	11	12	17	16	8	16	14
Out of Bounds	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	2	2	1	3	1	2	0
Own Rec. for TD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Opp. Rec. By	22	13	10	16	11	16	13	15	20	13	12	10	17	12
Opp. Rec. for TD	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Total Points Scored	179	255	345	183	134	302	231	232	181	220	272	220	103	196
Total TDs	20	31	42	23	14	36	30	31	20	29	36	27	11	19
TDs Rushing	9	18	21	11	5	19	9	14	11	10	19	16	4	4
TDs Passing	8	11	18	7	6	16	19	13	6	18	14	9	3	15
TDs on Ret. and Rec.	3	2	3	5	3	1	2	4	3	1	3	2	4	0
Extra Points	20	27	39	19	11	32	25	29	19	25	35	25	10	19
Safeties	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Field Goals Made	13	14	18	8	13	18	8	5	14	7	7	11	9	21
Field Goals Attempted	30	27	29	19	21	30	17	12	23	15	16	19	17	37
% Successful	43.3	51.9	62.1	42.1	61.9	60.0	47.1	41.7	60.9	46.7	43.8	57.9	52.9	56.8

Complacency Is Cowboys' Concern

NFC EAST

1978 PREDICTED FINISH

FINAL 1977 NFL TEAM STANDINGS

	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Op
Dallas	12	2	0	.857	345	212
Washington	9	5	0	.643	196	189
St. Louis	7	7	0	.500	272	287
Phialdelphia	5	9	0	.357	220	207
N.Y. Giants	5	9	0	.357	181	265

SUPER BOWL XI
Dallas 27, Denver 10

While the Dallas Cowboys have the most talented collection of athletes this side of the Rams and have to rate their designated role as the NFC's premier franchise, the rest of the NFC Eastern picture is somewhat muddled despite the above prediction which envisions a carbon copy replica of last year's final standings.

Jack Pardee and Bud Wilkinson, both of whom have inherited teams that seem on the verge of slipping from their accustomed perch as threats to the Cowboy dominance of the NFC East, will face a common challenge.

Even the lower echelon clubs, Philadelphia and the Giants, figure to be improved. Dick Vermiel will continue to remake the Eagles' image while the Giants struggle to find the keys to a consistent offensive attack.

PLAYER PERSONNEL UPDATE

COWBOYS: The rich get richer and quarterbacks around the league are going to have to pay the price. The Cowboys, already in possession of the league's fiercest pass rush, named Larry Bethea, the Big Ten MVP from Michigan State, as the club's first round choice. In choosing Bethea, as well as Dave Hudgens, a strong physical DT prospect who needs work on technique, the Cowboys underscored their faith in the best athlete philosophy. Number two pick, Todd Christensen, a strong, bullish power runner who is an accomplished pass blocker represents a similar endorsement. Cowboys would have preferred to strengthen their offensive line, but Brandt and Landry didn't feel there was all that many top flight prospects after Chris Ward and Gordon King were plucked in the first round.

REDSKINS: Bobby Beathard, who pulled off a starling coup with his fifth round selection of Leroy Harris for the Dolphins a year ago, is hopeful that he has a similar kind of sleeper in Tony Greene, a diminutive but quick runner who averaged 5.8 yards per carry to break Larry Smith's career record at Florida. Denied their usual allotment of draft choices until Greene was snapped up in the sixth round, the Redskins will need full recoveries on the part of last year's inhabitants of the injured reserve list — John Riggins, Reggie Haynes, Perry Brooks and Brian Fryer if the team, in Pardee's view, is going to be better and keep from losing ground.

CARDINALS: The most significant feature of the Cardinals draft was the decision to tab Arkansas' superb kicker, Steve Little, in hte first round. Wilkinson, a strong believer in defense and the importance of field position which can become a double-edged sword if one's kicking game is an unassailable strength, feels that the addition of Little will help solve a myriad of defensive problems. The Big Red secondary, which was riddled with injuries as well as by opposing QBs, was given some much needed assistance via the selection of Washington State's Ken Greene who is expected to take over the SS spot left vacant by the free-agent departure of Ken Reaves, one of twelve Cardinals to have played out their options.

Number two pick John Barefield, a tough-tackling linebacking prospect with good range and Texas A&I teammate, Doug Greene, the club's extra third round selection, will be given a chance to compete for a starting cornerback position. George Collins, a strong, agile guard from Georgia was a pleasant fourth round surprise as well.

EAGLES: Some puzzling moves were made here. With linebacking a seemingly evident strength, the Eagles not only traded for MLB Tom Graham, a mediocre starter whom the Chargers have been trying to replace for two seasons, but also used the team's highest draft choice — a third round selection — within recent memory to select Reggie Wilkes, another linebacking prospect from Georgia Tech. Dennis Harrison, a mammoth physical specimen with a modicum of talent, was the club's fourth round selection following a disappointing senior season at Vanderbilt.

GIANTS: John Hicks got his wish prior to the draft and will next be seen in a Steeler uniform. The Giants feel they obtained two starters in Jim Clack and Ernie Pough. The Giants were astounded to find the name of Gordon King still on the board when it came time to exercise the tenth selection in the first round. King, a huge, quick offensive tackle schooled at Stanford in the art of pass protection under the guidance of Bill Walsh and with some helpful hints from Monte Clark, should provide the kind of consistency that the Giants sought from Hicks. Number two pick Odis McKinney has had a history of injuries and could be a medical risk. If healthy, however, the Colorado DB could step in and strengthen the Giants main defensive weakness, a thinly talented secondary. The club did not have a third round selection because of Wellington Mara's decision to compensate the Dolphins for signing Larry Csonka. Fourth round pick Billy Taylor is an exciting prospect who could give the Giants the power running they expected Csonka to supply.

DALLAS COWBOYS

1978 Schedule		
9/4	BALT. (Mon.)	8:00
9/10	at N.Y. Giants	1:00
9/17	at L.A.	1:00
9/24	ST. LOUIS	3:00
10/2	at Wash.(Mn)	9:00
10/8	N.Y. GIANTS	1:00
10/15	at St. Louis	1:00
10/22	PHILA.	1:00
10/26	MINN.(Thurs.)	7:30
11/5	at Miami	4:00
11/12	at G.B. (Milw.)	1:00
11/19	NEW ORL.	1:00
11/23	WASH.(Thnks)	2:30
12/3	NEW ENG.	3:00
12/10	at Phila.	1:00
12/17	at N.Y. Jets	1:00

1977 Results		
9/18	at Minn. (2½)*	16-10
9/25	NYG (+13½)	41-21
10/2	TAMPA (+23)	23-7
10/9	at StL. (+4½)	30-24
10/16	WASH. (+9½)	34-16
10/23	at Phila. (+9½)	16-10
10/30	DET. (+13½)	37-0
11/6	at Giants (+13)	24-10
11/14	St.Louis (+6)	17-24
11/20	at Pitts. (-2)	13-28
11/27	at Wash. (+7½)	14-7
12/4	PHILA. (+13½)	24-14
12/12	at S.F. (+7)	42-35
12/18	DENVER (+3½)	14-6

*Overtime

Tom Landry actually smiled when asked to compare last year's champions with his previous Super Bowl contingents. "I do believe that this team has as good a group of athletes of any Super Bowl team we've brought together. I'm talking about overall natural athletic ability, especially in our younger players. They have so much ability, despite not being all that seasoned or experienced, that they're capable of making big plays on the field because of great physical talent."

Naturally, all that ability was impressively showcased in the crushing of the Broncos in Super Bowl XII last January. And, it is the image of that team that has caused many sleepless nights throughout the NFC this past off-season. Can the Cowboys be caught?

Of course, Tex Schramm, Gil Brandt and even Landry are rather skeptical of words like dynasty—after all, Schramm thought the '71 squad was of that caliber and his proclamation of a championship string of successes came back to ruin his '72 and '73 seasons. Yet, it is difficult to resist labeling this team as a possible multiple repeater especially when one considers just how young a squad Landry has been given by Schramm and Brandt.

In the three seasons since the remaking of the 1974 club which did not make the playoffs, the Cowboys have added a total of 22 players via the draft while also coming up with five key free agents. And to further prove the thoroughness of the Cowboy personnel department, it should be pointed out that the final Dallas roster showed a total of 50 players, 39 of whom were drafted compared to ten free agents and just one player (Ralph Neely) who was acquired via trade.

To be sure, there are some distinct needs which Brandt and Landry will attempt to fill via the 1978 draft. The offensive line will be undergoing the same kind of fundamental change that reshaped the linebacking unit as well as that fierce counterpart to the original doomsday defense.

Ralph Neely has announced his retirement, and Rayfield Wright cannot be counted on for full time participation because of those nagging knee and back injuries. Yet, even with the manifestation of these problems in the early going a year ago, the offense was able to overcome the adversity of playing with several changes as the line blocked well enough to enable Tony Dorsett to experience his superb rookie season.

Finally, not enough credit was given to Landry for the way he handled the million dollar talents of the former Heisman Trophy winner. Another move that was overlooked toward the end of the season, primarily because of the adaptation of the player involved, was the switch that saw Randy White installed at defensive tackle. Taken together, these decisions insured the Cowboys of continuing to win while in the midst of a rather well disguised rebuilding program.

QUARTERBACK: Roger Staubach, who got off to the same kind of blistering start that opened the '76 campaign, went through a trying three game period enroute to the playoffs in which he was intercepted seven times. However, he more than regained his form in leading the Cowboys to their quite decisive post-season victories. Roger also led the NFC passing derby with an overall rating of 87.1 that barely trailed Bob Griese's league leading mark of 88.0. Staubach, now entering his tenth season, will be 36 years old when the Cowboys begin the defense of their title. Landry feels that Roger can play two to three more years because of the way he stays in shape. Of course, it doesn't hurt when your supposedly aging QB completes 58% of his passes for 2,620 yards and twice as many TDs (18) as interceptions (nine). Pokes would also appear to be in excellent shape with Danny White and Glenn Carano available to come off the bench. White, the former WFL star, showed he can get the job done with some late season heroics, while Carano is thought to have a better arm and more potential than the now forgotten Clint Longley.

GRADE A+

RUNNING BACK: Exhibiting true thousand yard form, Dorsett gave the Cowboy attack a new dimension as he rushed for 1,007 yards on just 208 carries (no other 1,000-yarder carried the ball less) for an impressive 4.8 average and a total of 13 TDs. Preston Pearson, sparked by the competitive challenge of Dorsett, did not diminish in importance while Robert Newhouse remained a dependable performer. Scott Laidlaw and Doug Dennison have both been starters at one time or another while Larry Brinson proved to be another free agent find. Former number one pick Charles Young hurt again.

GRADE A+

RECEIVERS: Cowboys are blessed with excellent blend of speed, moves and an abundance of sure-handed talent. Pattern perfect Drew Pearson can do it all (club leading total of 48 catches for 870 yards) and is still among the most dangerous receivers in the league. Golden Richards' superb catch against Denver showcased the kind of talent he has, while Butch Johnson and Toni Hill give Landry great depth. Billy Joe Dupree premier TE whose blocking has improved while maintaining penchant for making tough catch. Jay Saldi valuable special teams performer as well as able back-up at TE.

GRADE A+

OFFENSIVE LINE: This was Landry's largest concern in the pre-season, and the departure of Ralph Neely will no doubt cause Cowboys to consider offensive line as area most in need of drafting attention. Problems compounded with ailing status of Rayfield Wright. Rookie Tom Rafferty filled in so well at right guard when Burton Lawless got nicked that it will be tough to dislodge him from the starting lineup. Herb Scott is the other Cowboy guard while John Fitzgerald performed impressively at center. Pat Donovan took over the right tackle spot when Wright was hobbled and Landry was especially pleased with his performance. Andy Frederick, a number five pick last year, and Jim Edison, a number two selection who has been injury prone, will compete for Neely's left tackle spot.

GRADE B+

DEFENSIVE LINE: Harvey Martin and Randy White are the finest young end-tackle combinations in the sport. Led by super sacker Martin — credited with a team leading 25 traps — the Cowboy pass rush has been compared to that of the original Doomsday Defense. This unit is slightly better. Jethro Pugh and Bill Gregory have alternated at the other tackle spot while Randy White's valued contribution was certified by his being voted to the Pro Bowl squad. Ed Jones, perhaps confronted with the challenge of playing up to the level of Martin and White, enjoyed a superb post-season and is being counted on to make his presence felt

as much as that of the dynamic duo. Larry Cole may or may not come back for another season.

GRADE A+

LINEBACKERS: Bob Bruenig stepped in for Leroy Jordan and did everything demanded of the MLB in Landry's complex alignments. Thomas Henderson has a flair for the spectacular and is outstanding against the pass as well as a very aggressive tackler. D.D. Lewis, now the old-pro of the unit, was most consistent, while young Mike Hegman needs a place to play. Bruce Huther, yet another free agent, and Guy Brown did a fine job on special teams and give Landry some talented depth here as well.

GRADE A-

SECONDARY: Charlie Waters and Cliff Harris were again tabbed for pro bowl duty and remain the constant force in the Cowboy secondary, as well as the finest pair of safeties in the league. Aaron Kyle certified his first round credentials with a fine season that was somewhat disrupted when he suffered a broken wrist. However, Kyle came back to play up to expectations in the post-season. Benny Barnes not nearly as flashy but still gets the job done and is consistent cover guy. Mel Renfro nearing retirement while Mark Washington, a promising starter before succumbing to injuries, has played out his option.

GRADE B+

KICKING GAME: Efren Herrera is the best place kicker in the NFC, and is especially effective in the clutch. Danny White is an excellent positional punter and the Cowboy return units are among the best in the game. Butch Johnson has speed and moves and can score from anywhere on the field.

GRADE A

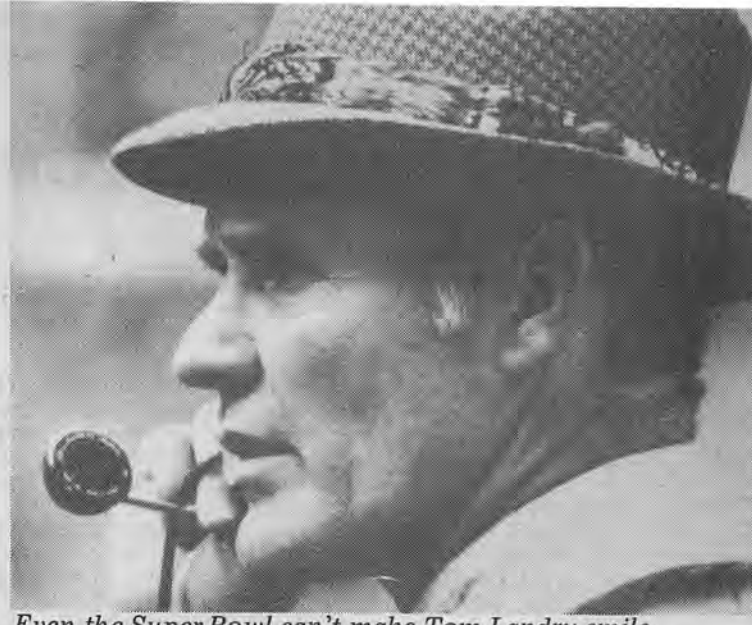
COACHING: Tom Landry continues as legendary coaching figure. Received high marks for handling of Dorsett and shift of White. Still one of the game's greatest innovators and proved up to such reputation with well designed game plan that left the Broncos for dead. Danny Reeves, interviewed by several clubs for vacant head coaching spots, decided to stick with the champs and Landry was quite happy with such decision. Ermal Allen key to club's fine preparation while Ernie Stautner continued in his role as superb defensive line coach.

GRADE A+

FRONT OFFICE: Daring decision to trade for Dorsett typical of Cowboy front office genius. Landry — Schramm — Brandt troika has been together since the beginning and no one does it better. Team has undergone three rebuilding periods in last decade and has only missed the playoffs once. Without question, such performance underscores value of front office team that is not only competent but compatible as well.

GRADE A+

PREDICTION: No doubt Dallas happy with departure of George Allen from Washington as well as by what seems to be general disintegration of fine Cardinal team. Cowboys have abundance of talent and should win division title handily. Will be favored to become first NFC team to win successive Super Bowl titles since Packer era.



Even the Super Bowl can't make Tom Landry smile.

DALLAS COWBOYS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Tony Dorsett	208	1007	4.8	84	12

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Cliff Harris	5	71	1.4	7	0

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Butch Johnson	50	15	423	8.5	38	0

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
R. Staubach	361	210	58.2	2620	18	9	2.5

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Drew Pearson	48	870	18.1	67	2
Preston Pearson	46	535	11.6	36	4

KICK-OFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Butch Johnson	22	536	24.4	64	0
Larry Brinson	17	409	24.1	41	0

PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
Danny White	80	57	39.6	33.2

SCORING	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Efren Herrera	39	41	18	29	93

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
31	Barnes,B.	CB	6-1/195	7	3/3/51	Stanford	14
53	Breunig,B.	LB	6-2/227	4	7/4/53	Arizona St.	14
36	Brinson,L.	RB	6-0/214	2	6/6/54	Florida	14
59	Brown,G.	LB	6-4/215	2	6/1/55	Houston	14
18	Carano,G.	QB	6-3/195	2	11/18/55	Nev.-Las Veg.	*0
63	Cole,L.	DE-DT	6-5/260	11	11/15/46	Hawaii	12
61	Cooper,J.	G	6-5/252	2	9/28/55	Temple	14
21	Dennison,D.	RB	6-0/204	5	12/18/51	Kutztown St.	8
67	Donovan,P.	T	6-4/255	4	7/1/53	Stanford	14
33	Dorsett,T.	RB	5-11/192	2	4/7/54	Pittsburgh	14
89	DuPree,B.J.	TE	6-4/226	6	3/7/50	Michigan St.	14
76	Edison,J.	T-G	6-3/257	2	5/10/54	Miss. St.	*0
62	Fitzgerald,J.	C	6-5/260	8	4/16/48	Boston Col.	12
71	Frederick,A.	T	6-6/245	2	9/25/54	New Mexico	14
77	Gregory,B.	DT	6-5/260	8	12/14/49	Wisconsin	13
43	Harris,C.	S	6-1/192	9	11/12/48	Ouachita	14
58	Hegman,M.	LB	6-1/225	3	1/17/53	Tenn. St.	14
56	Henderson,T.	LB	6-2/220	4	3/1/53	Langston	14
1	Herrera,E.	K	5-9/190	4	7/30/51	UCLA	14
80	Hill,T.	WR	6-2/196	2	6/23/56	Stanford	14
81	Howard,P.	WR	6-4/210	2	1/21/52	Austin Peay	*0
42	Hughes,R.	S	6-4/208	4	4/3/53	Oklahoma	13
57	Huther,B.	LB	6-1/217	2	7/23/54	New Hampshire	14
86	Johnson,B.	WR	6-1/191	3	5/28/54	Calif-Rivrsd	14
72	Jones,E.	DE	6-9/265	5	2/23/51	Tenn. St.	14
25	Kyle,A.	CB	5-10/185	3	4/6/54	Wyoming	14
35	Laidlaw,S.	RB	6-0/205	4	2/17/53	Stanford	14
66	Lawless,B.	G	6-4/250	4	11/1/53	Florida	14
50	Lewis,D.D.	LB	6-1/215	10	10/16/45	Miss. St.	13
79	Martin,H.	DE	6-5/252	6	11/16/50	E.Texas St.	14
44	Newhouse,R.	RB	5-10/205	7	1/9/50	Houston	14
88	Pearson,D.	WR	6-0/183	6	1/12/51	Tulsa	14
26	Pearson,P.	RB	6-1/206	12	1/17/45	Illinois	14
75	Pugh,J.	DT	6-6/250	14	7/3/44	Eliz.City St.	12
64	Rafferty,T.	G-C	6-3/250	3	8/2/54	Penn St.	14
20	Renfro,M.	CB	6-0/192	15	12/30/41	Oregon	11
83	Richards,G.	WR	6-0/180	6	12/31/50	Hawaii	14
87	Saldi,J.	TE	6-3/224	3	10/8/54	So. Carolina	14
78	Schaum,G.	DT	6-4/245	2	1/1/54	Mich.St.	*0
68	Scott,H.	G	6-2/250	4	1/18/53	Virg.Union	11
65	Stalls,D.	DT-DE	6-4/236	2	9/19/55	No.Colorado	11
12	Staubach,R.	QB	6-3/202	10	2/5/42	Navy	14
46	†Washington,M.	CB	5-11/187	9	12/25/47	Morgan St.	14
41	Waters,C.	S	6-2/198	9	9/10/48	Clemson	14
11	White,D.	QB-P	6-2/192	3	2/9/52	Arizona St.	14
54	White,R.	DT	6-4/245	4	1/15/53	Maryland	14
70	Wright,R.	T	6-6/260	12	8/23/45	Ft. Valley St.	2
30	Young,C.	RB	6-1/220	4	10/13/53	No.Carol.St.	*0

*Edison, Howard, Schaum, Young missed '77 season due to injury. Carano was active for 6 games but did not play.
†Option played; subject to developments.
Retired: Ralph Neely.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

1978 Schedule		
9/3	at New Eng.	1:00
9/10	PHILA.	1:00
9/17	at St. Louis	1:00
9/24	N.Y. JETS	1:00
10/2	DAL. (Mon.)	9:00
10/8	at Detroit	1:00
10/15	at Phila.	1:00
10/22	at N.Y. Giants	1:00
10/29	SAN FRAN.	1:00
11/6	at Balt. (Mon.)	9:00
11/12	N.Y. GIANTS	1:00
11/19	ST. LOUIS	1:00
11/23	at Dal.(Thnks)	2:30
12/3	MIAMI	1:00
12/10	at Atlanta	1:00
12/16	CHI.(Sat.)	1:00

1977 Results		
9/18	at Giants (+4)	17-20
9/25	ATLANTA (+9)	10-6
10/2	ST. LOUIS (-2)	24-14
10/9	at T. B. (+11)	23-24
10/16	at Dallas (-9½)	16-34
10/23	GIANTS (+9)	6-17
10/30	PHILA. (+5)	23-17
11/7	at Balt. (-10½)	3-10
11/13	at Phila. (-3)	17-14
11/21	G. B. (+11)	10-9
11/27	DALLAS (-7½)	7-14
12/4	at Buffalo (+6)	10-0
12/10	at St. L. (-4)	26-20
12/17	L. A. (-3)	17-14

Perhaps a brief word of warning is in order to the legion of anti George Allen fans who expect the Redskins to plummet from contention now that the long awaited day of future reckoning is at hand and someone else—Jack Pardee—has inherited a club ridden with age and notoriously bankrupt of draft choices.

It should be remembered, perhaps painfully, that the team Pardee has inherited came damn close to making the playoffs despite an assortment of injuries that nearly caused the offense to disappear across the final half of the season. However, the team's vaunted defense, inspired by an heroic performance on the part of the McDoles, the Hanburgers and the Houstons, somehow managed to keep the club in contention (the Skins won five of their last six games) while fashioning a statistical effort that was the franchise's most effective in 32 seasons.

And, don't think Jack Pardee is worried about any expected collapse due to age. After all, Pardee has already survived a fierce struggle with cancer, a brief moment of unpaid glory in the WFL and the challenge of leading the Chicago Bears back to contention.

Consequently, a bit of age—better than half the Redskin starting lineup are playing contempories of their new coach—and a paucity of premium draft choices will not deter Pardee's incentive to emulate Allen's record of success in producing playoff contenders.

Of course, it will be of some significance if people like John Riggins, Mike Thomas, Billy Kilmer and Chris Hanburger can manage to survive the rigors of the new 16-game schedule in fairly good health.

Finally, if Pardee's first personnel move, made in concert with newly appointed G.M. Bobby Beathard, is any guide, then the acquisition of veteran TE Tom Mitchell from the 49ers may indicate that the Redskins' new coach has a touch of his predecessor's philosophy in regard to the value of experience in pursuit of winning.

QUARTERBACK: When George Allen named Billy Kilmer as his starter in that decisive finale with the Rams—no one ever denied Allen's flair for the dramatic or the strange sense of irony that seems to surround him—a fairly large number of NFL experts predicted with some certainty that either the coach or Joe Theisman, the displaced passer, would not be back for the 1978 campaign. Consequently, that leaves Pardee with a predicament of his own. No doubt the future—the coming seasons as opposed to the now of '78—of this club lies in building an offense around a young passer possessed of mobility and a strong arm. Talents that are the property of Theismann. But what then of the old "Whiskey Face?" Kilmer may have had moments of mediocrity last season, but when it mattered most, Billy played beyond his physical skills and produced a championship effort that was worthy of his storied reputation. Statistically, Kilmer was ranked ahead of Theismann with an NFC rating of 66.6 to Joe's mark of 58.0. Together, the two passers accumulated over 2,100 yards worth a total of 15 TDs.

GRADE B+

RUNNING BACK: What was wrong with Mike Thomas? Not enough money led to a brief hold-out which in turn caused Thomas to be in less than the best of shape. Consequently, Thomas pulled a hamstring and disappeared from the starting lineup. Despite a resultant lack of playing time, Thomas still managed to lead the club in rushing (806 yards, 3.5 avg.) and if he can stay healthy for the full 16-game schedule, the Redskins will have a constant speed threat. John Riggins had no trouble with money but dollars can not make up for opportunity lost due to a surgical knee. Calvin Hill seemed misplaced as well and that left most of the playing time at the FB spot in the surprisingly capable hands of rookie Clarence Harmon. While Hill was spending time on the bench and Riggins was in the hospital, Harmon, another of Allen's free agent finds, was carrying the football instead of cashing checks. Overall, the FB position produced a total of 700 yards, a respectable amount for the likes of Harmon, but not nearly the kind of performance Edward Bennet Williams had expected from Allen's millionaire duo. Eddie Moss and Jim Kiick are stop-gap reserves.

GRADE B

RECEIVERS: TE Jean Fugett led the club with 36 catches good for 631 yards and five TDs and gave Williams full value for his rather considerable investment. Frank Grant, sidelined with an assortment of nagging injuries, finished the season in fine form as attested to by his total of 34 receptions and a 14.3 average. Danny Buggs also enjoyed a fine season and must have left the Giants shaking their heads. He didn't drop nearly as many passes while wearing Burgundy and played well enough (26 catches and a 13.1 average) to keep Charlie Taylor on the bench even when the latter was healthy. Acquisition of Tom Mitchell will bolster the TE spot and could portend switch of Fugett to wide receiver slot.

GRADE B

OFFENSIVE LINE: Another patched up unit above its collective head, especially down the stretch. Tim Stokes and George Starke, despite being hindered by injuries, did a fine job at tackle while Terry Hermeling overcame the constant burden of pain to play well in spots. Lenny Hauss kept going at center and Ron Saul was a consistent and underrated left guard. The club needs infusion of youth here. Dan Nugent lone quality reserve.

GRADE B

DEFENSIVE LINE: Ron McDole played well enough to merit serious consideration for the Pro Bowl. The former Bill, who will be 39 years old when the season starts, will also be tough to oust from the starting lineup. Dave Butz took over for severely handicapped Bill Brundige but failed to show enough consistency to merit the huge price (two number ones) Allen paid to acquire him from the Cardinals. Diron Talbert was probably the club's most consistent defensive lineman while Karl Lorch and Will Wynn (former Eagle regular) supply adequate depth. Pardee will also welcome back Dennis Johnson and Duncan McColl from the injured reserve list.

GRADE B+

LINEBACKERS: Apparent age handicap here as well, but Pardee not likely to be in hurry to replace Hanburger and did well enough to insure his return. Hanburger, who was sidelined with knee and shoulder problems, showed why he's so valuable with an incredible performance against the Rams in the finale. Harold McLinton remains a sturdy MLB who doesn't make many mistakes. Brad Dusek developed into surprisingly effective starter on the left side with penchant for producing key turnovers. Depth is a problem however.

GRADE B+

SECONDARY: Loss of Pat Fischer was felt until WFL refugee Gerard Williams proved himself against quality opposition. Pardee should benefit from Allen's patience and could have fine steal here. Joe Lavender played up to previous form on the right side while Ken Houston and Jake Scott give deep secondary expertise and skill to offset age handicap. Eddie Brown is top reserve here. Ken Houston led club with five interceptions as Redskin secondary tied with Dallas (21) for fourth best mark in the NFC.

GRADE B+

KICKING GAME: Mark Moseley came through in most crucial of situations and showed flair for big play. He has incredibly strong legs and his four kicks over 50 yards were one better than the rest of the NFL combined. Mike Bragg is still a quality punter with ability to give team field position edge. Eddie Brown will again lead Redskin specialits but Larry Jones will be missed.

GRADE A-

COACHING: Pardee literally 'jumped' at chance to take over Skins. No doubt he welcomes challenge of proving experts wrong. Something he did rather well while in Chicago. Pardee went 4-10 in innaugaral season (1974) with the Bears and two seasons later, the Bears were in the playoffs at the expense of the Redskins. Expect Redskin veterans to rally around their former teammate and team is not likely to disappear from ranks of NFC contenders. Pardee will concentrate efforts on the defensive side of scrimmage while Fred O'Connor plays key role as offensive backfield coach.

GRADE A-

FRONT OFFICE: With Allen gone and venerable Tim Temmario heading for retirement, Bobby Beathard was lured away from Dolphins to run Skin front office. Bobby Mitchell and Mike Allman will continue in role as top personnel evaluators under direction of Beathard. Club will seek to improve via trades and free agent market. Beathard and Mitchell will spend considerable time studying waiver wire transactions.

GRADE B

PREDICTION: While Washington media may not have Allen to kick around anymore, team will still be tough to discount. If Pardee and Beathard can figure way to add quality talent without benefit of draft choices while maintaining status quo of key veterans, team will be in contention.

Billy Kilmer can't bear to watch Skins' elimination.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Mike Thomas	228	806	3.5	31	3

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Ken Houston	5	69	13.8	31	0

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Eddie Brown	57	8	452	7.9	43	0

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
Billy Kilmer	201	99	49.3	1187	8	7	3.5

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Jean Fugett	36	631	17.5	52	5
Frank Grant	34	480	14.1	59	3

KICK-OFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Eddie Brown	34	852	25.1	46	0

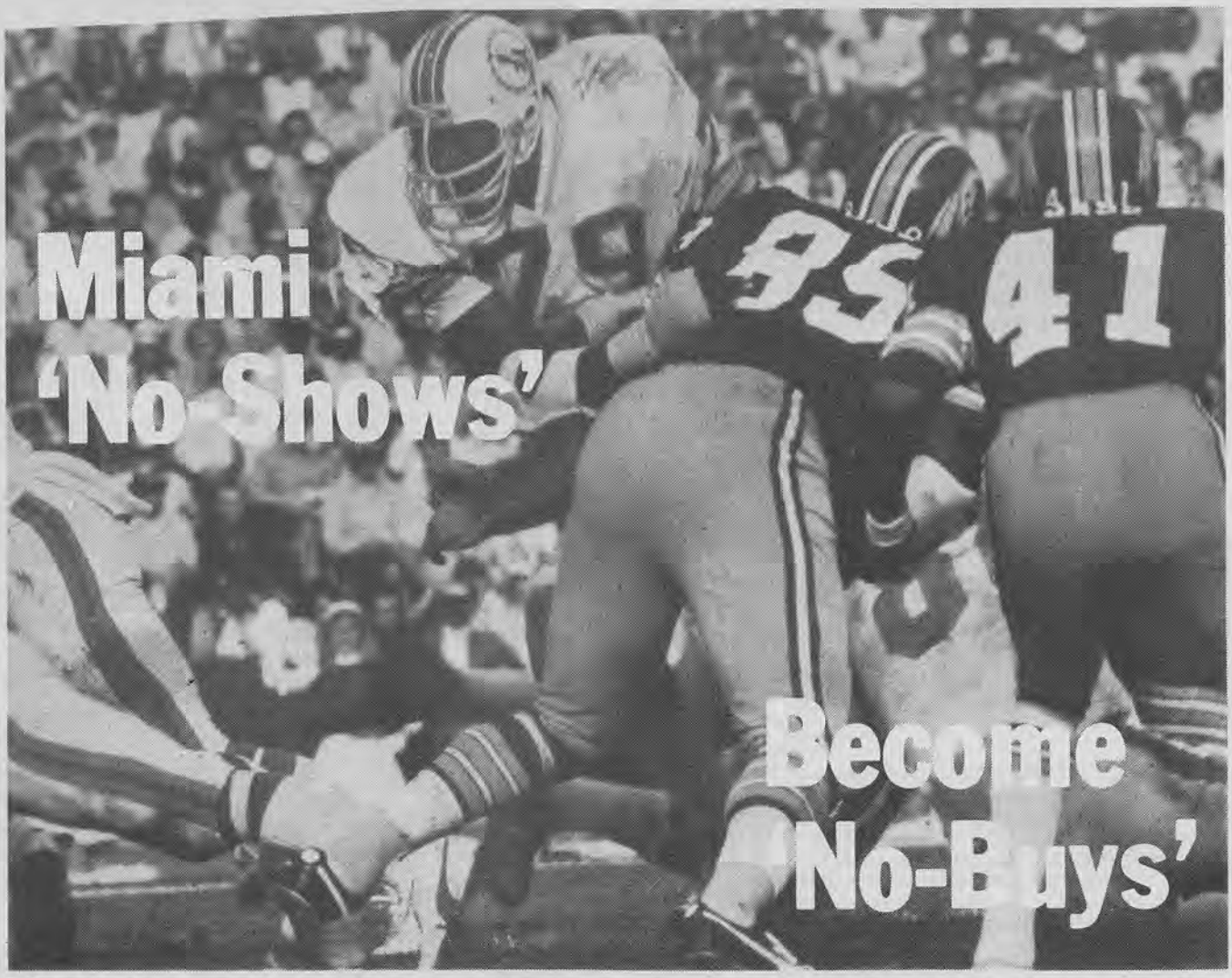
PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
Mike Bragg	91	56	38.5	35.1

SCORING	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Mark Mosley	19	19	21	37	82

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
4	Bragg,Mike	P	5-11/186	11	9/26/46	Richmond	14
25	Brown,Eddie	S	5-11/190	5	2/19/52	Tennessee	14
77	†Brundige,B	DT	6-5/270	9	11/13/48	Colorado	12
88	Buggs,Danny	WR	6-2/185	4	4/22/53	West Virginia	14
65	Butz,D	DT	6-7/285	6	6/23/50	Purdue	12
32	†Curtis,Mike	LB	6-2/232	14	3/27/43	Duke	12
59	Dusek,B	LB	6-2/214	5	12/13/50	Texas A&M	14
37	†Fischer,P	CB	5-9/170	18	1/2/40	Nebraska	3
66	Fritsch,T	C	6-2/242	7	8/26/50	St.Norbert	14
85	Fryer,B	WR	6-1/185	2	7/16/53	Edmonton	*0
84	Fugett,Jean	TE	6-4/230	7	12/16/51	Amherst	14
46	Grant,Frank	WR	5-11/181	6	2/15/50	So.Colorado	14
40	Hall,Windlan	S	5-11/175	7	3/11/50	Arizona St.	*13
55	Hanburger,C	LB	6-2/218	14	8/13/41	No. Carolina	5
38	Harmon,C	RB	5-11/190	2	11/30/55	Miss. St.	12
51	Harris,Joe	LB	6-1/225	2	12/6/52	Georgia Tech	11
	Hartle,Greg	LB	6-2/225	4	2/14/51	Newberry	*0
56	Hauss,Len	C	6-2/235	15	7/11/42	Georgia	14
75	Hermeling,T	G	6-5/255	9	4/25/46	Nevada-Reno	13
82	Hickman,D	DE	6-6/235	3	2/16/52	Calif-Berkeley	14
35	Hill,Calvin	RB	6-4/227	9	2/2/47	Yale	14
27	Houston,K	S	6-3/198	12	11/12/44	Prairie View	14
61	Johnson,D	DE	6-4/265	5	10/22/51	Delaware	11
21	Jones,Larry	WR	5-10/170	5	3/4/51	Nrtheast Mo.	14
30	Kiick,Jim	RB	5-11/215	9	8/9/46	Wyoming	*4
17	Kilmer,B	QB	6-0/204	16	9/4/39	UCLA	8
	Kinny,Jeff	RB	6-2/215	6	11-/1/49	Nebraska	*0
54	Kuziel,Bob	C-T	6-5/255	4	7/24/50	Pittsburgh	14
20	Lavender,J	CB	6-4/190	6	2/10/49	S. Diego St	14
71	Lorch,Karl	DE	6-3/258	3	6/14/50	USC	14
79	McDole,Ron	DE	6-4/265	18	9/9/39	Nebraska	14
	McGraw,Mike	LB	6-2/225	2	12/27/53	Wyoming	*0
53	McLinton,H.	LB	6-2/235	10	7/1/47	Southern	14
3	Moseley,M.	K	6-0/205	7	3/12/48	S.F. Austin	14
36	Moss,Eddie	RB	6-0/225	5	9/27/48	Sthest Mo.	9
29	Murphy,Mark	S	6-4/210	2	7/13/55	Colgate	14
62	Nugent,Dan	G	6-3/250	3	8/22/53	Auburn	14
57	O'Dell,Stu	LB	6-1/220	5	11/27/51	Indiana	3
	Reamon,T	RB	5-10/192	2	3/12/52	Missouri	*0
44	Riggins,J	RB	6-2/230	8	8/4/49	Kansas	5
	Russ,Carl	LB	6-2/227	4	2/16/53	Michigan	*0
64	Saul,Ron	G	6-3/254	9	2/5/48	Michigan St.	14
13	Scott,Jake	S	6-0/188	9	7/20/45	Georgia	14
74	Starke,G.	T	6-5/250	6	7/18/48	Columbia	14
76	Stokes,Tim	T	6-5/252	5	3/16/50	Oregon	14
72	Talbert,D.	DT	6-5/255	12	7/1/44	Texas	14
42	†Taylor,C.	WR	6-3/210	15	9/28/42	Arizona St.	12
7	Theismann,J.	QB	6-0/190	5	9/9/49	Notre Dame	14
22	Thomas,M.	RB	5-11/190	4	7/17/53	Nev.-Las Vegas	13
67	Tillman,R.	LB	6-2/230	9	2/27/48	No. Arizona	14
	Weatherly,J.	C	6-3/250	2	4/13/52	No college	*0
45	Williams,G.	CB	6-1/184	3	5/25/52	Langston	14
70	†Wynn,Will	DE	6 */245	5	1/15/49	Tenn. St.	1
50	Wysocki,P.	LB	6-2/225	4	10/3/48	West.Mich.	13

*Fryer on injured reserve for 1977, last active with Redskins in 1976; Hall played 5 games with Minnesota Vikings, 8 with Redskins; Hartle on injured reserve, last active with St. Louis in 1976; Kinney last active with Buffalo in 1976; Reamon last active with Kansas City in 1976; Russ played 3 games with New York Jets; Weatherly last active with Atlanta in 1976. McGraw last active with St. Louis,1976. Kiick played 3 games for Denver
†Option playout; subject to developments.
Retired: Bob Brunet, Brig Owens, Jerry Smith.



Miami 'No-Shows' Become 'No-Buys'

Miami Dolphins "no-shows" became so used to watching home games on television that they eventually got out of the habit of buying season tickets, Dolphins owner Joe Robbie testified at a house subcommittee on television blackouts of sports events.

"No-shows became no-buys in following seasons," Robbie said in his monotone testimony before House Communications Subcommittee Chairman Lionel Van Deerlin, D-Calif., and Rep. Lou Frey Jr., R-Fla., ranking minority member. He said the 1973 season ticket high of 74,000 has dropped to 34,000 for last season, "and we had a winning year."

Although the National Football League has voluntarily allowed the lifting of local blackouts of games sold out 72 hours beforehand, bills to make that provision part of the law again, as it was from 1973 to 1975, have been introduced.

Other bills include proposals to shorten the sellout deadline to 48 hours before game time; to require that a game be only 95 percent sold out before the blackout is lifted; and to reduce the blacked out area from 75 miles to 30 miles from the game.

Frey, who co-sponsored legislation last year, said the committee was investigating the need for new legislation "because the Congress has granted you (team owners) an exemption from the anti-trust provisions of the law. Otherwise we would have no business being here asking you these questions."

NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle, who did not attend the subcommittee meeting, says the team owners have agreed to continue the voluntary anti-blackout policy through the 1979 season.

But questions have arisen on how far the blackout can be extended, since the present law leaves it up to the NFL. Also the banning of specific team's games, as the Tampa Bay Buccaneers have done with the Miami Dolphins, has drawn complaints from fans in Tampa, said Doug Duperault, program director for WFLA-TV in Tampa.

Bucs' owner Hugh Culverhouse will not allow the televising in the Tampa-St. Petersburg area of Dolphins games even when they're at different starting times, such as 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

"I regretted having to make that decision," drawled Culverhouse. "But I had to do it to build a winning team."

Ivan Deerlin said the income from television now almost exceeds the gate receipts. Under the new television contract, each NFL team gets $5.5 million for the season, up $3.3 million over the last agreement.

Frey added, "The policies of the league seem to be more and more toward making it into a studio sport." He pointed out that television revenues from professional football have exceeded $675 million in the last three years.

Miami Attorney Ellis Rubin, who filed one of the first lawsuits against the NFL-imposed blackouts, reminded the committee that their job was toward the public good.

"Without your gun leveled at their heads, the owners won't budge," Rubin concluded in asking for legislation rather than voluntary compliance.

Then speaking to the owners, Rubin said, "Before television, the people were once the sole source of support for professional football teams . . . What I am saying to the NFL is that since Congress has been good to you, now you in turn should be good to the people."

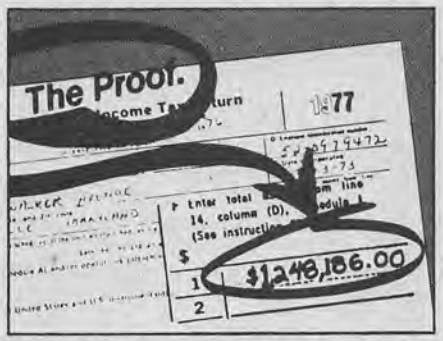
Dolphins Coach Don Shula testified that from the competitive point it's easier to get his team motivated with a packed stadium behind him. Recalling the Super Bowl winning days of "awesome fan support" Shula said, "Miami became known as a tough place for a visiting team to come in and win."

"The name of the game is the fans in the stands," Shula said. "If it ever gets to be a theater game, I don't think I'll want to be a part of it anymore."

"Would you bet $80 to win $4,000? I did, and now so can you!"

"Winning at football is a piece of cake. I'll show you how to knock down the Vegas spread week after week and multiply your money 50 times over...and I CAN PROVE IT!"

Mike Warren, America's leading thoroughbred handicapper, whose football Hotline—in its very first season—produced an unprecedented 81% winners! HERE IS MIKE WARREN'S IRS FOR '77.



"That's right—a million just for picking winners at the track. *I'm a professional winner,* and I'm telling you *football is a piece of cake.* Why? Because...

THE LAS VEGAS LINE IS ONLY 47.8% ACCURATE!

A little secret nobody talks about, but it's *true!* Here's the summary of Vegas's own record in predicting the point differentials (the spread) between winning and losing teams during the '77-'78 football season:

86 right
94 wrong
12 tied (pushes)
4 byes (pick 'em)
196

Can you believe that? You'd imagine Vegas would be right at least 55% of the time—hey, they're the geniuses who're supposed to set the spread!

Now, let's compare MY record with Vegas:

- My BEST BETS—predictions I sent out via my Newsletter every Wednesday—were *74.4% accurate–that's 27 points better than Vegas!*
- My HOTLINE picks—selections I gave out on the phone the morning of the game, after we had a chance to wait for late-breaking information—were 81% ACCURATE!

THESE ARE THE BEST NUMBERS IN FOOTBALL.

So if you want to win, forget about the Las Vegas line. Come to me! I'll show you how to win week after week. Last season we were *in the money 14 weeks out of 15. Which means that....*

- ON A FLAT BET BASIS, if you had bet just $20 a game on each of my Hotline picks last year, by season's end YOU WOULD HAVE *CLEARED* $736—without having to add to your original stake of just $80! That's a profit of 920%! But...
- FOLLOWING MY PYRAMID METHOD—again with a starting stake of just $20 a game—YOU WOULD HAVE ENDED THE SEASON WITH $4,764—NET! That's a profit of 5,955%!

Can you think of something you'd like to have done with those dolllars? good, then I have an idea. Join me THIS year....

MY "50-POWER PYRAMID". How it worked last year: HOW $80...BECAME...$4,764!

Let's say you bet only $20 a game on each of our Hotline games the first week and then banked one half of your first week's winnings and added the other half to your stake for the following week—and continued doing so for the rest of the season and into the post season. Here's how you would have bet...and WON...NEED I SAY MORE?

Week	Stake	Bet'g Unit	W/L	Won	Lost	Net	Half	Banked
1. (9/17)	$ 80	$ 20	4/0	$ 80	$ 0	$ 80	$ 40	$ 40
2. (9/24)	$ 120	$ 40	3/0	$ 120	$ 0	$ 120	$ 60	$ 100
3. (10/1)	$ 180	$ 36	4/1	$ 144	$ 40	$ 104	$ 52	$ 152
4. (10/8)	$ 232	$ 58	3/1	$ 174	$ 64	$ 110	$ 56	$ 206
5. (10/15)	$ 288	$ 96	3/0	$ 288	$ 0	$ 288	$144	$ 350
6. (10/22)	$ 432	$ 72	5/1	$ 360	$ 79	$ 281	$140	$ 491
7. (10/29)	$ 572	$143	3/1	$ 429	$157	$ 272	$136	$ 627
8. (11/5)	$ 708	$177	3/1	$ 531	$195	$ 336	$168	$ 795
9. (11/12)	$ 876	$219	1/3	$ 219	$723	$ 504	—	$ 795
10. (11/19)	$ 372	$124	3/0	$ 372	$ 0	$ 372	$186	$ 981
11. (11/26)	$ 560	$140	3/1	$ 420	$154	$ 266	$133	$1114
12. (12/3)	$ 695	$139	4/1	$ 556	$153	$ 403	$200	$1373
13. (12/10)	$ 895	$179	4/1	$ 716	$197	$ 519	$260	$1631
14. (12/17)	$1156	$289	3/1	$ 867	$318	$ 549	$275	$1908
15. (12/24)	$1428	$357	4/0	$1428	$ 0	$1428	—	—
	$1428		50/12			$1428		$1908

That's close to 60 TIMES YOUR ORIGINAL STAKE... or a winning percentage of 5,955%!

Net winning last week $1428
stake $1428

IMAGINE IF YOU HAD STARTED AT $100 A GAME! **TOTAL $4,764**

GET ON MY HOTLINE...BET THE MOST ACCURATE PICKS IN FOOTBALL

Beat the pants off Vegas! Subscribe now and I'll send you my weekly Newsletter featuring my BEST BET selections against the spread...picks that were 74.4% on the money!

Then each weekend, call me on my private HOTLINE for last minute picks on the big action games where I scored an unprecedented 81% last season!

Here's the deal:

- THE WHOLE SEASON. All 14 weeks of the college schedule plus the 16 weeks of the newly expanded NFL season—with at least 6 picks a week—for $100. If you're an experienced bettor, you know that's a steal!
- MY TWO WEEK SAMPLER. If you've got cold feet and you'd like to test me out—or you can't spring for the bread—come on board for just two weeks for $20. and I'll give you at least 12 selections—that's 12 chances to MAKE MONEY and maybe come in later for the rest of the season.

Whichever option you choose, you get....

MY BONUS BOOK: "POWER PYRAMIDING: HOW TO SCORE BIG IN FOOTBALL." It shows you step by step *how you can snowball your original stake into 50 times its size!*...BASED ON MY ACTUAL RECORD OF PREDICTIONS FOR LAST SEASON! (See the table above for an example.)

ACT NOW!

If you're going to root for the good guys, don't bet. Give your money to charity. But if you're going to bet anyway, be a bad sport like me—BET TO WIN! The Vegas oddsmakers are bad sports. Luckily, they're not very good oddsmakers either. So what are you waiting for? You can STEAL THEM BLIND. And I'll show you how!

If coupon is removed, write me direct c/o Baltimore Bulletin, 23-25 Walker Ave., Baltimore, MD 21208.

Dear Mike,

Your edge on Vegas is too good to turn down. SIGN ME UP:

☐ I'll start slow. Send me your Newsletter and put me on your Hotline for 2 weeks. You guarantee me 6 selections a week for a total of 12 chances to WIN. You have my word I won't share your picks with other bettors and that, if I win, I'll come on board for the rest of the season. Fee: $20.

☐ I don't want to risk losing a week or two getting back to you. Sign me up for the whole season. Fee: $100

☐ Enclosed is my check ☐ Bill my credit card
☐ Visa/BankAmericard ☐ American Express
☐ Master Charge

FA

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

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make checks payable to: Baltimore Bulletin, 23-25 Walker Ave., Baltimore, MD 21208

Please do not send cash through the mails.

Kyle Rote's Formula Biggest Betting Breakthrough

Sportsform Banned In Vegas

There is panic in the pointspreads.

Kyle Rote always played football to win, but the way he is doing it today is virtually a "sure thing."

When he was the pass-catching star for the New York Giants many a fan put money in the bank for bets on games that he won with those great touchdown runs.

Now he's playing football for you with the Kyle Rote Sportsform and you can take your own money to the bank on bets that are based on a revolutionary new system.

The reason Kyle and the Giants didn't always win was that quarterbacks, tackles and split ends are human and as the old saying goes — "to err is human." Sometimes the pass fell short, got intercepted, or was fumbled — even by Kyle himself.

But now Kyle has a brand new team, the Sportsform's Revolutionary Statistical Formula, featuring his board of experts and a constant analysis of factors that have gone through thousands of dry-run tests in unerring computers.

There are no linebackers around to bust up Kyle's plays, his new system features analysts, statisticians, and cold steel computers — they're Super Human. And Super Humans don't make mistakes.

"The Sportsform provides absolutely the most nearly perfect system that ever has been devised for pre-determining football winners," said Rote. "It is uncanny and unerring. It is almost mystical. The answers are all there and I guess that the best testimonial that can be offered is the fact that Sportsform is now banned in Las Vegas."

No one except Rote and the analysts and statisticians who provide the information for those hard-hitting steel computers, knows how it works. But throughout last season, all of the factors for pre-determining winners were put into those computers. The input was constantly adjusted for game by game, college and pro, until finally there was perfectly honed perfection.

The word leaked out as it always does. You can't hide success under a bushel basket, especially when you are about to reap a bushel basket of profits.

And because Sportsform has street-smart reporters who get around and know what is happening in the betting capitol of the world, it was no surprise that these comments were intercepted from some of the most toughened old bookies who ever put together a pointspread.

With no identification because the bookies also are street-smart and hate to admit that their traditional advantage in football betting was in jeopardy, here is what they had to say.

Revolutionary Betting Formula 'Predetermines' Winners Every Week

"Nobody with a copy of Sportsform is gonna get a football bet down at _____ (name of establishment deleted) any time next season," said one old timer.

"I will bet you right now and it is four months until football action is underway again, that they are going to ban Sportsform on the newsstands," commented a man from Harrah's.

"If what I hear is the real goods, this is a complete breakthrough on pointspread betting and I don't know what we can do to stay ahead of it," said a former associate of Jimmy the Greek.

And all of that conversation took place BEFORE any of the Las Vegas sages had even seen an actual copy of the new Sportsform. It was based on reliable reports that had leaked out via football's grape vine, the underground hotline that is supposed to give bookies the edge.

They're playing it safe in Las Vegas and if you plan to be out there you had better get your Sportsform before you reach Nevada's borders because no copies will be available once you are there.

But that's the point. You can have what Las Vegas forbids on sale every week of the 1978 season at all newsstands for only $3 per copy.

And from that point you can take over where Kyle and the computers, the analysts, and statisticians left off. You will be your own quarterback in every game that you play, with your own bets.

In a very real sense, you've got Kyle Rote carrying the ball for you, and the statisticians, analysts and steel-souled computers are handling the interference. You can be a latter-day Vince Lombardi and you can apply his philosophy of victory, "winning isn't everything, it's the only thing."

Consider what is there for you as you go to work on your own winning bets. You've got the basics, handily tabulated for you team by team with the log of past games, the complete schedule, and the individual game analysis by Sportsform's professional correspondents. There is, at a quick glance, the season's statistical totals for each team with differential and the season's average point totals plus the average win and loss margin. Summing up, there is the season's pointspread record and the results of last year's game with this opponent.

Then come the blockbusters, the new Sportsform Revolutionary Statistical Formula. This formula is revealed on page 66.

Into all of this comes Rote's own evaluation that the new system "is almost mystical." It is all that and more. There are secret elements that can not ever be revealed.

And that is what caused the panic in the pointspreads. That's why Sportsform for 1978 and beyond provides the break-through that has lassoed Las Vegas. But the rope is around their necks — not yours.

Kyle Rote's Sportsform

The Weekly Encyclopedia of Football & Basketball

AS SEEN ON abc TV
Featured in the Harry Reasoner News Report

KYLE KNOWS WHERE THE WINNERS COME FROM

Get inside Kyle Rote's head—
Make his KNOWHOW your way to KNOW HOW
to cash winning bets.
This great NY Giants Superstar, NBC-TV sportscaster,
SMU All-America is now working for YOU—
if you decide to hire him.
Kyle calls the signals for SPORTSFORM,
the weekly encyclopedia of football.
When you subscribe, Kyle becomes your man.
He has the last word on YOUR information
in his position as the quarterback
and team captain of the ALL-PRO
staff at SPORTSFORM.

Kyle Rote's Sportsform

The Weekly Encyclopedia of Football & Basketball

Kyle Rote's Revolutionary Formula Predetermines Winners

The Most Comprehensive Source of Football (and Basketball) Reference Information Anywhere! (...and the Las Vegas Bookmakers Know It!)

There is panic in the pointspreads.

And it is time for you to be ahead of the times.

Sportsform has been banned in Las Vegas and that means if you are reading it, you have access to information that is making the bookmakers look hard at their pointspread betting rules.

They are street smart out there in Vegas and they want everything to go their way. Remember the man from Utah who perfected a system of counting the deck, and walked away with a cool $100,000 in winnings? they stopped his perfectly legal system, changed operations so it couldn't happen again. His way of play has been outlawed in every casino on the Nevada Strip. They don't play blackjack that way any more.

That's what is happening with **Kyle Rote's New Statistical Formula**.

All the new facts for pre-determining pointspread winners in college and pro football were put into computers. Pre-analysis of every factor was made in dry-run testing, using information that had to affect the outcome. In hundreds of tests the **Kyle Rote Statistical Formula** worked successfully.

And the word leaked out. thus, in Las Vegas, the betting capital of the Universe, where no bookmaking establishment is willing to risk wagers against a sure thing, the decision was made to ban the sale of **Sportsform**.

So what if **Sportsform** is banned in Las Vegas?

It is not banned to you.

You can have this informative weekly throughout every football and basketball season and we will tell you now—unconditionally— if it is not everything we say it is, we'll give you your money back.

On Sale At All Newsstands $3.00 Weekly

★ **Not A Tipsheet or Newsletter-Average Issue 64 Pages** ★

Cost Of Winning Only $3 Per Week

Less by Subscription

Money Back Guarantee!!

Order the SPORTSFORM, the weekly encyclopedia of Football or the Confidential Communique —the last-minute word in grid information, or both. Kyle Rote personnally guarantees that you must be 100% satisfied or your money will be refunded promptly, no questions asked. Sent by First Class Mail Tuesday morning to reach you no later than Thursday and possibly earlier. For Special Delivery, add $1.25 per copy.

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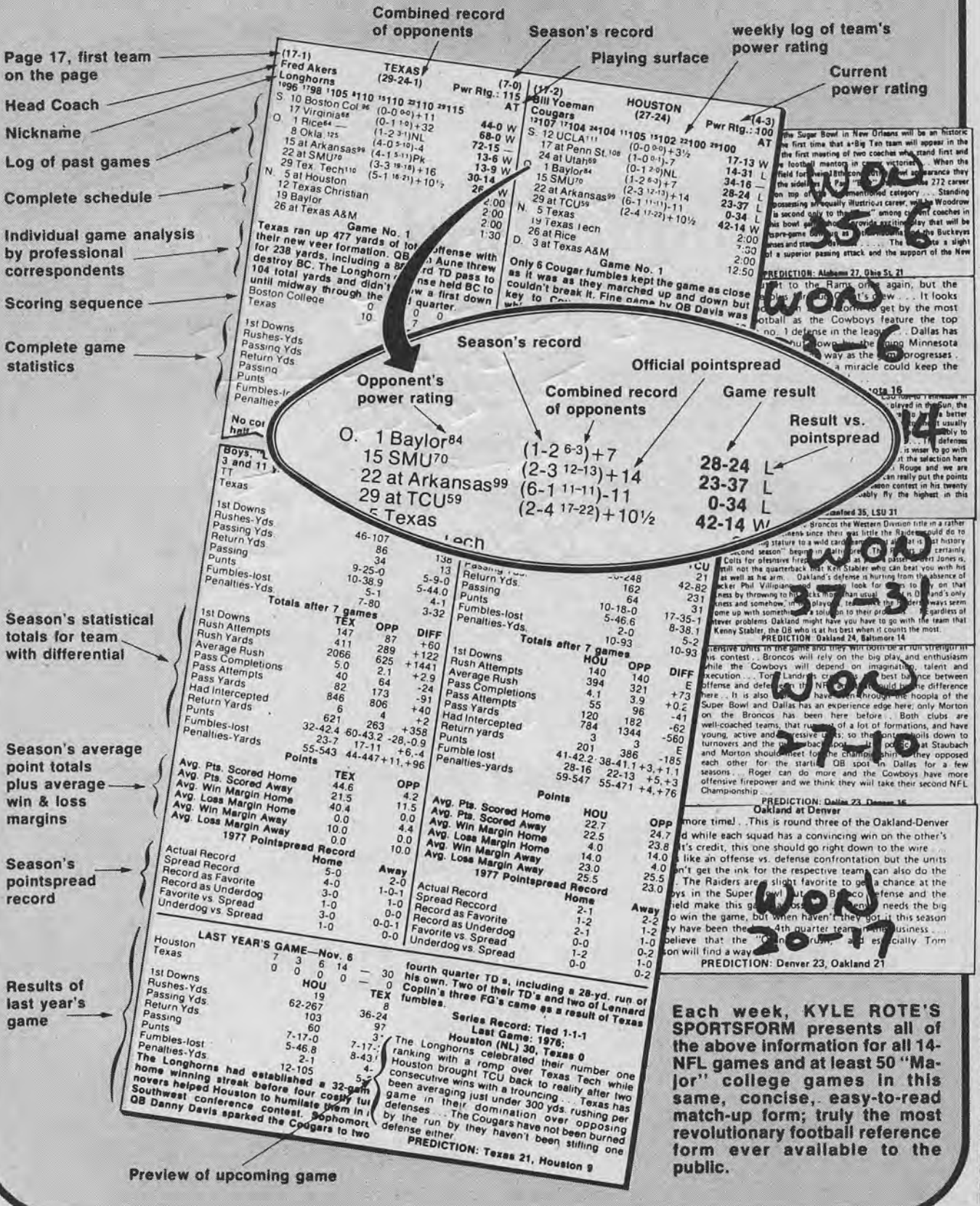
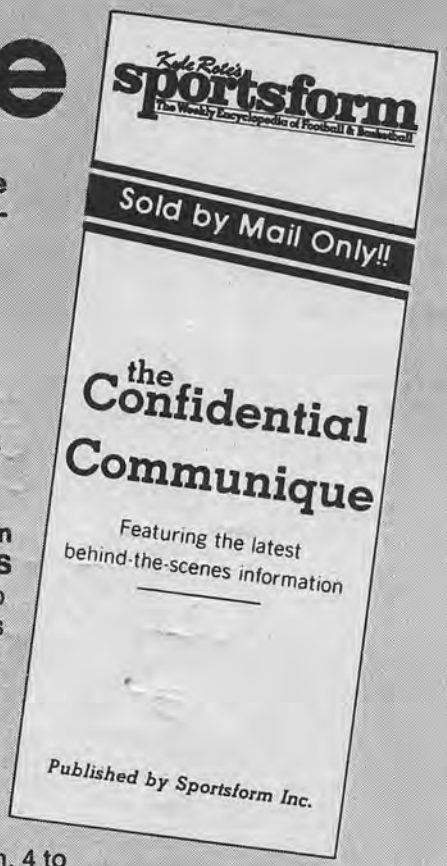
. . .Banned in Las Vegas

Information So Comprehensive Absolutely Nothing Is Missing


Page 17, first team on the page
Head Coach
Nickname
Log of past games
Complete schedule
Individual game analysis by professional correspondents
Scoring sequence
Complete game statistics
Season's statistical totals for team with differential
Season's average point totals plus average win & loss margins
Season's pointspread record
Results of last year's game
Preview of upcoming game
Combined record of opponents
Season's record
Playing surface
weekly log of team's power rating
Current power rating
Opponent's power rating
Official pointspread
Game result
Result vs. pointspread
TEXAS (29-24-1)
HOUSTON (27-24)
Pwr Rtg.: 115
Pwr Rtg.: 100
Bill Yeoman
Cougars
Fred Akers
Longhorns
Only 6 Cougar fumbles kept the game as close as it was as they marched up and down but couldn't break it. Fine game by QB Davis was
Texas ran up 477 yards of tot offense with their new veer formation. QB for 238 yards, including a 8 Aune threw destroy BC. The Longhorn rd TD pass to 104 total yards and didn't nse held BC to until midway through the w a first down Boston College
Texas
1st Downs
Rushes-Yds
Passing Yds
Return Yds
Passing
Punts
Fumbles-lo
Penalties
Totals after 7 games
TEX OPP DIFF
HOU OPP DIFF
Avg. Pts. Scored Home
Avg. Pts. Scored Away
Avg. Win Margin Home
Avg. Loss Margin Away
Avg. Win Margin Away
Avg. Loss Margin Away
1977 Pointspread Record
Actual Record
Spread Record
Record as Favorite
Record as Underdog
Favorite vs. Spread
Underdog vs. Spread
LAST YEAR'S GAME—Nov. 6
Houston
Texas
Series Record: Tied 1-1-1
Last Game: 1976:
Houston (NL) 30, Texas 0
The Longhorns had established a 32-gam
home winning streak before four costly tu
novers helped Houston to humiliate them in t
Southwest conference contest. Sophomor
QB Danny Davis sparked the Cougars to two
fourth quarter TD s, including a 28-yd. run of
his own. Two of their TD's and two of Lennard
Coplin's three FG's came as a result of Texas
fumbles.
The Longhorns celebrated their number one ranking with a romp over Texas Tech while Houston brought TCU back to reality after two consecutive wins with a trouncing . . . Texas has been averaging just under 300 yds. rushing per game in their domination over opposing defenses . . . The Cougars have not been burned by the run by they haven't been stifling one defense either
PREDICTION: Texas 21, Houston 9
Oakland at Denver
PREDICTION: Denver 23, Oakland 21
PREDICTION: Alabama 27, Ohio St. 21
PREDICTION: Oakland 24, Baltimore 14
PREDICTION: Dallas 23, Denver 16
Crawford 35, LSU 31

Each week, KYLE ROTE'S SPORTSFORM presents all of the above information for all 14-NFL games and at least 50 "Major" college games in this same, concise, easy-to-read match-up form; truly the most revolutionary football reference form ever available to the public.

Your Own Private Hotline



The last-minute word in grid information. Now you can be assured that no pertinent late-breaking football information will escape your scrutiny . . . .

the Confidential Communique

. . .The last-minute word in grid information . . takes up where KYLE ROTE'S SPORTS - FORM leaves off: Every week you can look forward to a detailed last-minute report, consisting of indepth analysis of late-breaking information from a "multi wire," plus: Line fluctuations in various sections of the country, reported and analyzed from over 100 sources. Complete point - spread breakdown for every team, college and pro, in the country, including: record as favorite—record as underdog —etc., plus an analysis of the pointspread winners and losers and why it all happened. Re-evaluation of injuries from the "wire" as well as our private sources of information. 4 to 7 games super predictions, complete with analysis and predicted final scores. Our updated sure-eshot winners after all late-minute data has been carefully scrutinized. "Inside" information not available to the general public. By mail only privately to you.

EXTRA

Power Action Points

pro football

NATIONAL CONFERENCE	PR	OR	DR	WEF	HT
Maximum Ratings	148	67	49	5	3
Eastern Division					
Dallas Cowboys	145	63	47	4	3
Washington Redskins	138	52	41	2	3

college football

	PR	OR	DR	WEF	HT
[illegible]	70	15	12	2	2

Power Action Points

There are five ratings for each team in the Power Action Points Table:
Power Rating (PR) Winning Edge Factor (WEF)
Offensive Rating (OR) Home Team Rating (HT) Defensive Rating (DR)

Subtract the Power Rating of the lower-rated team from the higher-rated team to find the estimated pointspread.

EXAMPLE:
Arkansas Power Rating 93
Arizona Power Rating 90

*Please note that in some cases, where a weak offensive team is playing a strong defensive team, a **minus** score will result. In such a case, add the minus score to the opponent's score and leave the weak offensive team at zero.

EXAMPLE:
Arkansas Defense Rating 28
Appalachian State Defense Rating 14
Arkansas' final score 14

Appalachian State Offensive Rating 18
Arkansas Defensive Rating 20
Appalachian final score . . . . . -2

Final score of game: Arkansas 16, Appalachian State 0

Included Every Week in the Sportsform you'll get the Amazing Power Action Points. Power Action Points is a Complete Rating Table Every Week in the Sportsform.

We do the updating . . . You do the winning Every Week vs. the Spread.

1977 NFL TEAM STATS

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

DEFENSE

	Atl.	Chi.	Dall.	Det.	G.B.	L.A.	Minn.	N.O.	N.Y.G.	Phil.	St.L.	S.F.	T.B.	Wash.
First Downs	192	241	205	206	261	203	212	272	226	216	258	221	241	234
Rushing	100	124	88	93	140	90	119	153	94	95	122	107	124	112
Passing	76	106	94	103	105	94	80	103	110	106	120	94	106	102
Penalty	16	11	23	10	16	19	13	16	22	15	16	20	11	20
Rushes	504	544	457	521	582	462	548	623	519	521	514	551	581	537
Net Yds. Gained	1858	2158	1651	1905	2314	1698	2218	2729	1773	1917	2237	1869	2031	2039
Avg. Gain	3.7	4.0	3.6	3.7	4.0	3.7	4.0	4.4	3.4	3.7	4.4	3.4	3.5	3.8
Avg. Yds. Per Game	132.7	154.1	117.9	136.1	165.3	121.3	158.4	194.9	126.6	136.9	159.8	133.5	145.1	145.6
Passes Attempted	320	377	370	302	319	370	312	290	328	358	375	270	338	380
Completed	141	182	154	161	186	180	149	154	185	183	198	139	191	167
% Completed	44.1	48.3	41.6	53.3	58.3	48.6	47.8	53.1	56.4	51.1	52.8	51.5	56.5	43.9
Total Yds. Gained	1775	2334	1991	2123	2042	2236	1835	2127	2399	2192	2476	1948	2149	2430
Passer Tackled	42	27	53	32	37	36	30	27	37	47	25	42	30	45
Yds. Lost	391	207	429	256	323	359	254	234	302	316	209	360	246	359
Net Yds. Gained	1384	2127	1562	1867	1719	1877	1581	1893	2097	1876	2267	1588	1903	2071
Avg. Yds. per Game	98.9	151.9	111.6	133.4	122.8	134.1	112.9	135.2	149.8	134.0	161.9	113.4	135.9	147.9
Net Yds. per Pass Play	3.82	5.26	3.69	5.59	4.83	4.62	4.62	5.97	5.75	4.63	5.67	5.09	5.17	4.87
Yds. Gained per Comp.	12.59	12.82	12.93	13.19	10.98	12.42	12.32	13.81	12.97	11.98	12.51	14.01	11.25	14.55
Combined Net Yds. Gained	3242	4285	3213	3772	4033	3575	3799	4622	3870	3793	4504	3457	3934	4110
% Total Yds., Rushing	57.31	50.36	51.38	50.50	57.38	47.50	58.38	59.04	45.81	50.54	49.67	54.06	51.63	49.61
% Total Yds., Passing	42.69	49.64	48.62	49.50	42.62	52.50	41.62	40.96	54.19	49.46	50.33	45.94	48.37	50.39
Avg. Yds. per Game	231.6	306.1	229.5	269.4	288.1	255.4	271.4	330.1	276.4	270.9	321.7	246.9	281.0	293.6
Ball Control Plays	866	948	880	855	938	868	890	940	884	926	914	863	949	962
Avg. Yds. per Play	3.7	4.5	3.7	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.3	4.9	4.4	4.1	4.9	4.0	4.1	4.3
Intercepted By	26	18	21	19	13	25	16	10	12	21	19	8	23	21
Yds. Returned By	462	138	229	319	89	472	109	83	179	300	267	133	368	188
Returned for TD	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	3	0
Punts	101	93	103	87	76	89	92	75	88	91	72	86	84	95
Yds. Punted	3665	3636	3825	3439	2776	3440	3511	2909	3427	3523	2843	3228	3351	3478
Avg. Yds. per Punt	36.3	39.1	37.1	39.5	36.5	38.7	38.2	38.8	38.9	38.7	39.5	37.5	39.9	36.6
Punt Returns	58	42	36	62	53	29	42	51	67	45	33	47	71	50
Yds. Returned	519	216	280	535	311	116	507	604	680	244	157	444	469	228
Avg. Yds. per Return	8.9	5.1	7.8	8.6	5.9	4.0	12.1	11.8	10.1	5.4	4.8	9.4	6.6	4.6
Returned for TD	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kickoff Returns	43	52	71	33	39	53	48	45	35	46	55	48	33	54
Yds. Returned	1021	1010	1614	741	786	1156	999	1075	895	940	1104	1025	699	1033
Avg. Yds. per Return	23.7	19.4	22.7	22.5	20.2	21.8	20.8	23.9	25.6	20.4	20.1	21.4	21.2	19.1
Returned for TD	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Penalties	99	83	78	88	101	94	82	104	106	84	82	96	87	100
Yds. Penalized	860	731	731	770	799	825	688	972	886	698	817	820	714	857
Fumbles	35	27	22	32	27	26	23	29	47	24	19	21	34	28
Lost	22	13	10	16	11	16	13	15	20	13	12	10	18	12
Out of Bounds	2	2	0	3	1	1	0	1	1	2	2	1	1	1
Own Rec. for TD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Opp. Rec.	9	17	14	14	9	17	24	11	12	17	15	8	16	14
Opp. Rec. for TD	0	3	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total Points Scored	129	253	212	252	219	146	227	336	265	207	287	260	223	189
Total TDs	15	27	26	31	27	18	30	42	33	25	34	32	26	21
TDs Rushing	5	14	9	13	16	7	11	21	16	10	11	16	13	8
TDs Passing	9	7	14	14	10	11	15	15	12	14	22	14	10	12
TDs on Ret. and Rec.	1	6	3	4	1	0	4	6	5	1	1	2	3	1
Extra Points	12	26	26	28	22	17	26	39	31	24	32	29	23	21
Safeties	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Field Goals Made	9	21	10	12	11	7	7	15	12	11	17	13	14	14
Field Goals Attempted	16	29	15	24	23	18	17	24	22	26	26	22	27	29
% Successful	56.3	72.4	66.7	50.0	47.8	38.9	41.2	62.5	54.5	42.3	65.4	59.1	51.9	48.3

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

1978 Schedule		
9/3	at Chicago	1:00
9/10	NEW ENG.	1:00
9/17	WASH.	1:00
9/24	at Dallas	3:00
10/1	at Miami	1:00
10/8	BALTIMORE	1:00
10/15	DALLAS	1:00
10/22	at N.Y. Jets	1:00
10/29	at Phila.	1:00
11/5	N.Y. GIANTS	12:00
11/12	at San Fran.	1:00
11/19	at Washington	1:00
11/26	PHILA.	1:00
12/3	DETROIT	1:00
12/10	at N.Y. Giants	1:00
12/17	ATLANTA	1:00

1977 Results		
9/18	at Denver (-3½)	0-7
9/25	CHIC. (+3)	16-13
10/2	at Wash. (+2)	14-24
10/9	DALLAS (-4½)	24-30
10/16	at Phila. (+3)	21-17
10/23	N. O. (+10)	49-31
10/30	GIANTS (+11)	28-0
11/6	at Minn. (-4)	27-7
11/14	at Dallas (-6)	24-17
11/20	PHILA. (+10)	21-16
11/24	MIAMI (+6)	14-55
12/4	at Giants (+10)	7-27
12/10	WASH. (+4)	20-26
12/18	at T. B. (+6½)	7-17

Perhaps the most poignant reaction to Billy Bidwell's stunning selection of the legendary Bud Wilkinson as successor to the disgruntled Don Coryell was voiced by Paul Brown. Upon greeting Bidwell at the NFL owner's winter meetings, Brown, who was out of the game for five years before overseeing the birth of the Bengals, congratulated the Cardinal owner for doing the unexpected. Brown, whose initial AAC-NFL tenure rivaled that of Wilkinson's collegiate success story at Oklahoma, felt that Wilkinson would not have all that much difficulty in returning to the sideline.

Wilkinson, looking exceedingly fit and handling the media rather well, seemed to relish the attention paid to him by the NFL establishment. "I have no illusions about how tough this league is. Obviously, I'm not as current as I would have been if I had stayed in coaching (he will return after a fifteen year absence) but the fundamentals of the game remain the same. As far as the players are concerned, I don't think the good athlete has ever changed. My job is to maximize the talent of every player."

QUARTERBACK: Jim Hart had a tough time of it last season. He threw too many interceptions (20) and was sacked more often than in the past. Yet, he did manage to have several excellent outings in completing 52% of his passes for 2,542 yards (second best production in the NFC behind Staubach). Hart is still one of the most accurate passers in the game and should bounce back with solid performance, especially if his talented receivers stay healthy. Top pick Steve Pisarkewicz spent the season on the bench and enters his sophmore campaign relatively untested. Zark has the physical talent to merit his number one selection, but such choice caused considerable controversy. Coryell would rather have had defensive help.

GRADE A

RUNNING BACK: Potential here remains bright because of talented depth. Even though Terry Metcalf followed through on his threat to leave nagging fans and memories of costly fumbles behind, the Cardinal ground game remains healthy. Wayne Morris, whose exceptional blend of power and speed kept burly Jim Otis on the bench throughout most of the season, has the credentials (165 carries, 661 yards and a 4.0 average to go with eight TDs) to become the focal point of the Big Red ground attack. Number two pick George Franklin, who spent his rookie season on the injured reserve list, has similar type talent and even more speed. Jerry Latin has done well in the past as a spot player and may develop with full-time shot. Jim Otis, a dependable big back whose determination often makes up for a lack of speed, has been productive in the past, but it is doubtful that he can match his 1,000 yard accomplishments without the threat of Metcalf's game-breaking skills to occupy the defense. Steve Jones another quality reserve.

GRADE B+

RECEIVERS: Mel Gray, despite missing several games because of an assortment of injuries, is still a premier deep threat who retains big play ability as attested to by his 20.6 average per catch mark that produced 782 yards and five TDs. Ike Harris, traded to the Saints in the Dobler deal after having played out his option, will not be missed as much as a team's leading receiver would be for another club. Pat Tilley, a fine pattern runner blessed with excellent hands, will be entering his third season and the former number two pick should more than adequately replace the departed Harris. J.V. Cain, after a disappointing apprenticeship, has rounded into a capable TE who can block as well as he can catch. Promotion of Tilley leaves opening for qualified replacement and it wouldn't be surprising to see Joe Sullivan enter the trade mart in attempt to upgrade the overall depth in this area.

GRADE B+

OFFENSIVE LINE: Dobler, despite his rough reputation, was a quality performer. However, Terry Stieve, acquired as part of the deal with the Saints, is expected to replace Dobler effectively. Stieve lacks great size but is stern competitor who will play every down. Dan Dierdorf still ranks as one of game's premier OTs and should perform at accustomed level of excellence now that he will be fully recovered from broken jaw that handicapped him (via weight loss) at tail end of last season. Tom Banks, another pro-bowl regular, threatened to leave because of money problems but he is still under contract and will no doubt anchor the center of the Big Red line. Roger Finnie and Bob Young, the talented left side of the line, will probably get more recognition now that controversial Dobler will be doing his biting and scratching, not to mention his blocking, for the Saints. Keith Wortmann proved to be a capable understudy when called on to fill in for Dierdorf.

GRADE A

DEFENSIVE LINE: Cardinals seemed to be improving here until late season collapse because of injuries and thin talent. Mike Dawson has proved that his first round selection two years ago was indeed a wise one. Dawson, who plays especially tough against the run, showed vast improvement as a pass rusher and is the Cardinals most impressive lineman. John Zook has seemingly returned to form while Ron Yankowski recovered from his previous injuries to nail down the LDE spot. Walt Patulski continued to disappoint. Big Red needs improvement here and could stand additional pass rusher. Ex-Saint Bob Pollard could be a big plus.

GRADE C+

LINEBACKERS: Disaster area that seemed as though it was part of a MASH script as well as repeat of nightmarish 1976 season. Ray White spent his second consecutive year on the injured reserve list. Mark Arneson best of a mediocre group even when everyone is healthy. Marv Kellum, former Steeler, took over MLB slot late in the season but continued to have trouble with pass coverage assignments. Rookie Eric Williams earned some recognition and could develop into a promising OLB.

GRADE C-

SECONDARY: Injury hex struck deeply here as well. After allowing the Colts to lure away Norm Thompson via the option play-out route, the Cardinals were hit with devastating rash of crippling late season injuries that caused some seven different lineup changes. Perry Smith (former Packer) and his replacement, Lee Nelson went

down within a week of each other with serious knee injuries. That left rookie Carl Allen (obtained in a summer trade with the Bengals) as regular CB. Allen played well at times but his inexperience was starkly evident throughout agonizing final month. Mike Sensibaugh, who was enjoying fine season, fell victim to injury plague and was replaced by Bill Bradley, the former Eagle FS. Ken Reaves, Jeff Severson and Thompson will get long look as starters while Roger Wherli returns for his tenth season. Wherli again led the club in interceptions with five and gave no indication that he has slowed down by earning yet another pro-bowl invitation.

GRADE C-

KICKING GAME: Jim Bakken experienced tough season as well and was not the decisive factor he has been in the past. Duane Carrell is a stop gap punter at best who has been cut by several teams. Cardinal return game figures to suffer because of loss of Metcalf. However, capable replacements could come from group that will include Tilley, Morris and Latin.

GRADE B-

COACHING: Appointment of Wilkinson caught entire NFL establishment by surprise. Reaction varied but most observers feel that Wilkinson will do effective job provided he can motivate his players. Selection of Tom Bettis, former Chiefs interim head coach and architect of KC's fine defensive clubs of the early seventies, a big plus and should afford Wilkinson with expert advice. Jim Hannafan, the man most responsible for the high octane Cardinal attack, elected to stay on and should help ease the transition. Wilkinson also reached out for another name from college in Pete Elliott who gave up AD spot at University of Miami.

GRADE B

FRONT OFFICE: Joe Sullivan is still regarded as fine talent guy whose operation has been handicapped by lack of big budget. George Boone, in charge of college scouting, caught most of the heat from Coryell because of selections of Zark and Franklin rather than filling of defensive needs. CPFN figures show Cardinals with least effective draft — only 9 of 26 premium (first three rounds) choices since 1970 remain active with the team — policy since realignment. Larry Wilson superb pro personnel man who was in running for head coaching job. Will be interesting to see how much Wilkinson relies on Sullivan and Boone during the coming season.

GRADE C

PREDICTION: It could be a long season for Wilkinson, especially with that murderous first half schedule. However, team has offensive talent, and if Wilkinson can upgrade the defense, the Cardinals could very well wing their way back into contention.

Wayne Morris is main man with Terry Metcalf gone.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	AVG	LG	TD	
*Terry Metcalf	149	739	5.0	62	4
Wayne Morris	165	661	4.0	35	8

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Roger Wehrli	5	44	8.8	41	0

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
*Terry Metcalf	14	0	108	717	23	0
Pat Tilley	13	4	111	8.5	21	0

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
Jim Hart	355	186	52.4	2542	13	20	5.6

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
*Ike Harris	40	547	13.7	38	3
Mel Gray	38	782	20.6	69	5

KICK-OFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
*Terry Metcalf	32	772	24.1	51	0
Steve Jones	8	132	16.5	25	0

PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
Duane Carrell	63	56	36.7	30.9

SCORING	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Jim Bakken	35	36	7	16	56

*No Longer With Club

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
27	Allen, Carl	CB	6-0/186	2	12/21/55	Southern Miss.	14
50	Allerman, Kurt	LB	6-3/222	2	8/30/55	Penn State	14
57	Arneson, Mark	LB	6-2/224	7	9/9/49	Arizona	14
25	Bakken, Jim	K	6-0/198	17	11/2/40	W consin	14
54	Banks, Tom	C-G	6-2/244	7	8/20/48	Auburn	14
79	†Bell, Bob	DE	6-4/257	8	1/25/48	Cincinnati	7
58	Black, Tim	LB	6-2/225	2	1/3/55	Baylor	4
30	†Bradley, Bill	S	5-11/190	10	1/24/47	Texas	4
51	†Brahaney, Tom	C	6-2/246	6	10/23/51	Oklahoma	14
88	Cain, J.V.	TE	6-4/221	5	7/22/51	Colorado	13
12	Carrell, Duane	P	5-10/185	5	10/3/49	Florida St.	12
26	Colbert, Rondy	CB	5-9/165	4	1/7/54	Lamar	4
76	†Davis, Charlie	DT	6-2/268	5	11/17/51	TCU	14
73	Dawson, Mike	DT	6-4/274	3	10/16/53	Arizona	14
72	Dierdorf, Dan	T	6-3/288	8	6/29/49	Michigan	12
10	Donckers, Bill	QB	6-1/205	3	1/8/51	San Diego St.	5
60	Finnie, Roger	T	6-3/248	10	11/6/45	Florida A&M	14
28	Giblin, Robert	S	6-1/205	4	11/18/52	Houston	11
85	Gray, Mel	WR	5-9/173	8	9/28/48	Missouri	14
17	Hart, Jim	QB	6-1/210	13	4/29/44	So. Illinois	14
34	Jones, Steve	RB	6-0/198	6	3/6/51	Duke	14
56	Kearney, Tim	LB	6-2/221	7	10/5/50	No. Michigan	14
59	Kellum, Marv	LB	6-2/225	5	6/23/52	Wichita St.	14
32	†Latin, Jerry	RB	5-10/186	4	8/25/53	No. Illinois	14
24	Morris, Wayne	RB	6-0/208	3	5/3/54	So. Methodist	12
53	Neils, Steve	LB	6-2/218	5	5/2/51	Minnesota	14
38	Nelson, Lee	CB	5-10/185	3	1/30/54	Florida St.	*10
65	Oates, Brad	T	6-6/274	3	9/30/53	BYU	10
35	†Otis, Jim	RB	6-0/226	9	4/29/48	Ohio State	13
74	†Patulski, Walt	DT	6-6/267	6	2/3/50	Notre Dame	14
15	Pisarkiewicz, S.	QB	6-2/205	2	11/10/53	Missouri	*0
82	Pollard, Bob	DE	6-3/251	8	12/30/48	Weber State	*14
36	†Reaves, Ken	S	6-3/208	12	10/29/44	Norfolk St.(Va.)	14
20	Sensibaugh, M.	S	5-11/190	8	1/3/49	Ohio State	*10
46	†Severson, Jeff	CB-S	6-1/185	7	9/16/49	Long Beach St.	14
42	Smith, Perry	CB	6-0/190	6	3/29/51	Colorado St.	*3
68	Steive, Terry	G	6-2/245	3	3/10/54	Wisconsin	*14
23	†Stone, Ken	S-WR	6-1/180	6	9/14/50	Vanderbilt	14
83	Tilley, Pat	WR	5-10/171	3	2/15/53	La. Tech	14
22	Wehrli, Roger	CB	6-0/193	10	11/26/47	Missouri	14
55	White, Ray	LB	6-2/220	5	3/5/49	Syracuse	*0
55	Williams, Eric	LB	6-2/217	2	6/17/55	USC	14
62	Wortman, Keith	G	6-2/262	7	7/20/50	Nebraska	14
78	Yankowski, R.	DE	6-5/258	8	10/23/46	Kansas St.	14
64	Young, Bob	G	6-1/279	13	9/3/42	Howard Payne	14
63	Zook, John	DE	6-5/254	10	9/24/47	Kansas	12

*Carrell played two games with the N.Y. Jets; White missed entire season because of injury; Pisarkiewicz was active for 10 games, but did not play; Nelson missed final four games after injury; Sensibaugh missed final four games after injury; Smith missed last 11 games after injury; Pollard and Stieve were acquired from New Orleans.

†Option playout; subject to developments

Retired: Jackie Smith

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

1978 Schedule		
9/3	LOS ANG.	1:00
9/10	at Washington	1:00
9/17	at New Orl.	1:00
9/24	MIAMI	1:00
10/1	at Baltimore	2:00
10/8	at New Eng.	1:00
10/15	WASH.	1:00
10/22	at Dallas	1:00
10/29	ST. LOUIS	1:00
11/5	GREEN BAY	1:00
11/12	N.Y. JETS	1:00
11/19	at N.Y. Giants	1:00
11/26	at St. Louis	1:00
12/3	at Minnesota	1:00
12/10	DALLAS	1:00
12/17	N.Y. GIANTS	1:00

1977 Results		
9/18	T. B. (+14)	13-3
9/25	at L. A. (-10½)	0-20
10/2	at Detroit(7½)	13-17
10/9	at Giants (-3)	28-10
10/16	ST. LOUIS (-3)	17-21
10/23	DALLAS (-9½)	10-16
10/30	at Wash. (-5)	17-23
11/6	N. O. (+3)	28-7
11/13	WASH. (+3)	14-17
11/20	at S. L. (-10)	16-21
11/27	at N. E. (-10)	6-14
12/4	at Dal. (-13½)	14-24
12/11	GIANTS (+6)	17-14
12/18	JETS (+7)	27-0

The Eagles were, without a doubt, the best 5-9 team in football, especially since six of those defeats were inflicted by a combined total of just 30 points.

Dick Vermiel, the former wunderkind at UCLA, is molding this team in his own image. The Eagles are tough, aggressive and scrappy. Despite an obvious lack of quality personnel, the Eagles managed to scare the hell out of divisional rivals like the Redskins and the Cowboys across a season of promise and disappointment.

Other than expansionist Tampa Bay, the Eagles made more personnel changes (21) than any other team in the National Football Conference. Handicapped by the foolish squandering of premium draft choices in the past, Vermiel has done an admirable job in getting the most out of what talent has been available.

Offensively, the trade for Ron Jaworksi for the rights to a still disappointing Charles Young supplied the Eagles with a strong-armed passer who has great natural ability in addition to a certain charismatic type of leadership. Even the running game, despite the lack of a really gifted performer, has shown improvement and Vermiel and his assistants have done a good job motivating people like Harold Carmichael.

Another major area of progress was the play of the defense, especially in terms of exerting a vastly improved pass rush. Rookie find Charles Johnson stepped in and gave the team quality performance at the nose guard spot, while Vermiel's decision to employ the 3-4 alignments favored in the AFC took full advantage of the team's above average linebacking. Bill Bergey continued in his role as the team's defensive leader and matched performance to reputation in earning yet another invitation to the Pro Bowl.

Consequently, Vermiel seems to have the Birds winging their way back into contention and if everyone stays healthy the chance for further improvement is definitely within reach.

QUARTERBACK: Along with the Cowboy's deal for the rights to draft Dorsett, the Eagles decision to sign Jaworski was the most successful trade of the season. Jaworski may still throw too many interceptions (21) but the Eagles were damn glad to have his 18 TD passes as well. There can be little argument about the quality of Jaworski's arm. The Polish Rifle should enjoy an even more effective season in 1978 because of continued familiarity with his receivers as well as an improved knowledge of Vermiel's offensive system. With Roman Gabriel having signed with the Rams, Vermiel is without a quality backup QB, mostly because the number one reserve, John Walton has had scant NFL experience following an impressive WFL showing with San Antonio.

GRADE B+

RUNNING BACK: The Eagles lack a game-breaking runner in the class of former stars like Timmy Brown. Tom Sullivan (363 yds) and Mike Hogan (546 yards and a respectable 3.5 average) are the regulars, and while they are capable backs who can also catch the ball, the club would dearly love to find someone with a touch more speed. Jim Betterson and Herb Lusk are average reserves, with Lusk having enjoyed some banner performances, especially against the Giants. Both could press for regular roles this season. Wilbert Montgomery, may have the speed to surprise.

GRADE C

RECEIVERS: It would come as virtually no surprise at all if Harold Carmichael decided to organize a Ron Jaworski fan club. The arrival of the Polish Rifle meant renewal for Carmichael who was on the verge of stardom before the switch from Gabriel to Boryla. Motivated by the chance to catch passes with the abandonment of old, the tree sized wide receiver finished the season with 46 catches, seven TDs and a per catch average of 14.5 that was worth 665 yards. Charles Smith, although somewhat inconsistent, still managed to haul in 33 catches for 464 yards and 4 TDs, which taken on balance and considering his free agent credentials, was a rather impressive performance. TE Keith Krepfle was typical of entire Eagle team and changes Vermiel has made. Blessed with mediocre physical ability, Krepfle plays tough, all-out brand of football and when he isn't blocking the hell out of a linebacker, Keith more often than not manages to come up with the big play. Reserve strength is at best of marginal caliber with people like Vince Papale, Wally Henry and Richard Osborne.

GRADE B

OFFENSIVE LINE: Eagle offensive line performed well enough despite handicap of thin talent. Jerry Sisemore and Guy Morris the best of the group. Sisemore is an outstanding tackle who has returned full value for number one draft choice investment. Former Texas great is also lone remaining home grown number one pick on the squad. Stan Walters was much improved at left tackle and has developed into better than average pass blocker since early problems with the Bengals. Ed George is physically tough guard who gets the job done despite his reputation for holding. Wade Key has been a hard worker at left guard. The club needs better overall pass protection as well as a bit more depth than that provided by Dennis Nelson, Tom Luken and Dennis Franks.

GRADE C

DEFENSIVE LINE: Eagles had poorest pass rush in NFC year before but the switch to full time employment of 3-4 defense along with arrival of rookie sensation Charlie Johnson to play nose guard saw Bird pass rush figures soar. And to make a rather impressive point, almost half of the Eagle sacks (21 of 47) came at the expense of the Cowboys and the Redskins. Manny Sistrunk, the former Redskin, adapted to his new outside responsibility with the Eagles handily, and gave fine support against the run. Carl Hairston, another one of the Eagles band of successful seventh round draft choices, has developed into an effective pass rusher. Pete Lazetich, a former top draft pick of the Chargers, and Art Thoms, who enjoyed similar status with the Raiders, are capable back-ups who have been troubled with injuries. Lem Burnham, who has had trials with the WFL and the Redskins, has some ability and could surprise.

GRADE B+

LINEBACKERS: Can be little doubt that this is the main strength of the Eagle defense. Bill Bergey continued in his accustomed role as the NFC's pro bowl MLB and is coming off another superb season. Bergey also continued role as club's defensive enforcer and his leadership qualities continue to enhance his abundant athletic skills. Frank Le Master and John Bunting are two quality starters who make up in performance what they lack in publicity. Le

Master has nose for the big play while Bunting is good force guy. Drew Mahalic, claimed by Vermiel off the waiver wire, has done well on the right side but could face a renewed challenge from reserve Tom Ehlers.

GRADE A-

SECONDARY: Eagle interception total jumped from nine to 21 and Vermiel credits revamped secondary with better than average performance. Free agent find Herman Edwards led the club with six thefts while Randy Logan was one back of that total. John Outlaw handled the other corner assignment and teamed with rookie Edwards to do fairly good job against the run. However, deep coverage here seemed to be a problem, especially against quality receivers with speed to burn. Randy Logan is still a tough SS while John Sanders, obtained from the Patriots, took over the FS slot that opened up with the exile of Bill Bradley.

GRADE C+

KICKING GAME: If Vermiel can be faulted for any one thing last year it was in the surprisingly dismal handling of this area. Horst Muhlmann's confidence was shattered by a string of chip-shot misses and the Orve Johannson affair was most embarrassing. Nick Mike Meyer, who was bounced from the Falcons because of problems similar to those that plagued Muhlmann, may or may not be the answer. Spike Jones should be replaced. Wilbert Montgomery and Larry Marshall — the former Chief and Viking rejects who are rapidly closing in on several Eagle team records — are above average return specialists.

GRADE D+

COACHING: Eagles should continue in their role as one of the most improved teams in the league even if their overall record doesn't wind up indicating just how much improved the club is. Vermiel has done an outstanding job in producing chicken salad out of what had been a horrible personnel mess. Marion Campbell, the former Falcon head coach, returned to the City where he helped spark a championship effort in 1960, and did a superb job with revamped front-line. Chuck Clausen and Rod Rust also merit praise for their role in that improvement as well.

GRADE A

FRONT OFFICE: Leonard Tose gets excellent business advice from Jim Murray and the appointment of Carl Peterson (reportedly the highest paid personnel chief in the league) to take over from retired Herman Ball should serve to strengthen the club in what has been a glaring weakness. Jackie Graves will be in charge of the college area while Jim Katcavage handles the pro side of the waiver process.

GRADE C+

PREDICTION: Eagles have tough schedule once again, but if improvement continues, this club could merit dark horse role as a major divisional spoiler.

Bill Bergey is the heart and soul of Eagle defense.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Mike Hogan	155	546	3.5	19	0

INTERCEPTIONS	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
John Sanders	6	122	20.3	45	0
Herman Edwards	6	9	1.5	6	0

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Larry Marshall	46	5	489	10.6	48	0

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
R. Jaworski	346	166	48.0	2183	18	21	6.1

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Harold Carmichael	46	665	14.5	50	7

KICK-OFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Wilbert Montgomery	23	619	26.9	99	1

PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
Spike Jones	93	68	37.2	32.8

SCORING	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Nick Mike-Meyer	14	14	10	22	44

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
66	Bergey, Bill	LB	6-3/245	10	2/9/45	Arkansas St.	14
34	Betterson, J.	RB	6-0/210	2	8/20/54	UNC	14
95	Bunting, John	LB	6-1/220	7	7/15/50	UNC	14
67	Burnham, Lem	DE	6-4/240	2	3/30/47	U.S. Internat'l	14
17	Carmichael, H.	WR	6-8/225	8	9/22/49	Southern	14
46	Edwards, Herman	S	6-0/194	2	4/27/54	San Diego St.	14
59	Ehlers, Tom	LB	6-2/218	4	7/14/52	Kentucky	14
30	Franklin, C.	RB	6-2/216	2	4/24/55	Baylor	14
53	Franks, Dennis	C	6-1/245	3	5/29/53	Michigan	14
64	George, Ed	T	6-4/270	4	8/10/46	Wake Forest	14
74	Green, Don	T	6-7/261	8	7/12/48	Purdue	10
78	Hairston, C.	DE	6-3/245	3	12/15/52	Md. Ea. Shore	14
89	Henry, Wally	WR	5-8/170	2	10/30/54	UCLA	10
35	Hogan, Mike	RB	6-2/215	3	11/1/54	Tenn.-Chatt.	12
7	Jaworski, R.	QB	6-2/195	5	3/23/51	Youngstown St.	14
65	Johnson, Charlie	MG	6-3/262	2	1/17/52	Colorado	12
49	Johnson, Eric	S	6-1/192	2	7/23/52	WSU	14
6	†Jones, Spike	P	6-2/195	9	7/9/47	Georgia	14
72	†Key, Wade	G	6-5/245	9	10/14/46	S.W. Tex. St.	14
84	Krepfle, Keith	TE	6-3/225	4	2/4/52	Iowa State	14
73	Lazetich, Pete	MG	6-3/245	6	2/4/50	Stanford	14
55	LeMaster, Frank	LB	6-2/231	5	3/12/52	Kentucky	14
41	Logan, Randy	S	6-1/195	6	5/1/51	Michigan	14
63	†Luken, Tom	G	6-3/253	6	6/15/50	Purdue	14
32	Lusk, Herb	RB	6-0/190	3	2/19/53	Long Beach St.	11
54	Mahalic, Drew	LB	6-4/225	4	5/22/53	Notre Dame	14
22	†Marshall, Larry	KR	5-10/195	7	3/2/50	Maryland	14
1	†Mike-Mayer, N.	K	5-9/187	6	3/1/50	Temple	*10
48	Mitchell, Martin	CB	6-1/180	2	1/10/54	Tualne	14
31	Montgomery, W.	RB	5-10/195	2	9/16/54	Abilene Ch.	14
50	Morriss, Guy	C	6-4/255	6	5/13/51	TCU	13
71	†Nelson, D.	T	6-5/260	8	2/2/46	Illinois St.	2
86	Osborne, Richard	TE	6-3/230	3	10/31/53	Texas A&M	14
20	Outlaw, Johnny	CB	5-10/180	10	1/8/46	Jackson St.	14
83	Papale, Vince	WR	6-2/195	3	2/9/46	St. Joseph's(Pa.)	14
82	Payne, Ken	WR	6-2/185	5	10/6/50	Langston	*4
57	Reed, James	LB	6-2/230	2	10/10/55	California	4
26	Sanders, John	S	6-1/175	4	1/11/51	South Dakota	14
76	Sisemore, Jerry	G	6-4/260	6	7/16/51	Texas	14
79	Sistrunk, Manny	DE	6-5/275	9	6/16/47	Arkansas AM&N	14
85	Smith, Charles	WR	6-1/185	5	7/26/50	Grambling	14
25	Sullivan, Tom	RB	6-0/190	7	3/5/50	Miami	14
58	Tautolo, Terry	LB	6-2/235	3	8/30/54	UCLA	14
80	Thoms, Art	DE	6-5/250	9	10/2/46	Syracuse	11
75	Walters, Stan	T	6-6/270	7	5/27/48	Syracuse	14
11	Walton, John	QB	6-2/210	3	10/4/47	Eliz. City St.	*0

*Payne played 4 games with Green Bay, missed remainder of season on injured reserve list with Philadelphia after being obtained via waivers. Mike-Mayer played 7 games with Atlanta, 3 games with the Eagles after being signed as a free agent. Walton was active for 4 games but did not play.

† Option playout; subject to developments.

GIANTS

N.Y. GIANTS

1978 Schedule		
9/2	at Tmpa(Sat.)	8:00
9/10	DALLAS	1:00
9/17	KANSAS CITY	1:00
9/24	SAN FRAN.	4:00
10/1	at Atlanta	1:00
10/8	at Dallas	1:00
10/15	TAMPA BAY	1:00
10/22	WASH.	1:00
10/29	at New Orl.	1:00
11/5	at St. Louis	12:00
11/12	at Washington	1:00
11/19	PHILA.	1:00
11/26	at Buffalo	1:00
12/3	LOS ANG.	1:00
12/10	ST. LOUIS	1:00
12/17	at Phila.	1:00

1977 Results		
9/18	WASH. (-4)	20-17
9/25	at Dallas (-14)	21-41
10/2	at Atlanta (-3½)	3-17
10/9	PHILA. (+3)	10-28
10/16	S. F. (-2½)	20-17
10/23	at Wash. (-9)	17-6
10/31	at St.L'is. (-11)	0-28
11/6	DALLAS (-6)	10-24
11/13	at Tampa (+6)	10-0
11/20	CLEVE. (-6½)	7-21
11/27	at Cinn. (-13)	13-30
12/4	STL (-10)	27-7
12/11	at Phila. (-6)	14-17
12/18	CHI. (-6)*	9-12

*Overtime

If you happen to be a Giant season ticket holder, there is likely to be a touch of familiarity to be found in the following statistical statement which the club mailed to the members of pro football's largest attendance.

"After a 3-11 finish in 1976, the Giants upped that mark to 5-9 this past campaign and were this-close to a 7-7 finish, losing 17-14 in the final 20 seconds to the Eagles and 12-9 in overtime to the Bears in the final two games of the season. . .Defensively, the Giants were considerably improved over 1976 and were particularly strong against the rush. In final NFC team statistics, the Giants finished 8th in the overall team defense and were an impressive third in the conference against the rush, behind the Cowboys and the Rams. . .Offensively, despite obvious shortcomings in the early portion of the season, the Giants also showed marked improvement in all phases during the second half of the season."

Of course, most Giant fans will be quick to remember that the club which finished 5-9 averaged just 12.9 points per game and some of those contests were really wretched affairs. And, if you're one of those who really cares, you'll recognize the following set of numbers.

In the eight years since the implementation of the merger in 1970, the Giants have had a total of 18 premium picks in the first three rounds of the draft. Of that total, only seven are still active with the team.

Even more relative is the performance of the team's personnel department over the past three seasons. The Giants have added a total of 40 new players since the 1975 draft. Of that total, only 13 are draft choices while 23 have been signed as free agents with the remaining four having been acquired in trade. Such turnover is the most in the NFC and is a main reason why the Giants final 1977 roster breakdown shows a total of 54 players, 26 of which represent free agent imports. With the exception of the Redskins and the two expansion clubs, no other team in the NFL has more.

QUARTERBACK: Surely Craig Morton was most grateful that the Giants didn't think he was capable of winning in the NFL. Of course, they were more confident in the potential of Jerry Golsteyn. Steve Ramsey, imported from Denver, wasn't able to make it past the summer. Surprise, Joe Pisarcik, an aging rookie via his three years experience in the CFL, came on with a maximum of determination and a minimum of style to wind up as the Giants regular quarterback. While the Giants still envision Golsteyn as their 'future' QB, Pisarcik will probably wind up winning the job again. Pisarcik seems to have a fine arm but tends to be rather erratic as his 14 interceptions attest. But he has the charisma of a Joe Kapp type and makes things happen.

GRADE C+

RUNNING BACK: Not much here despite a combined 450-yard performance in the final two games. Doug Kotar, a productive free agent pick-up from the Steelers, runs hard and will bleed yardage, but is often hurt. Larry Csonka has been a distinct disappointment and a possible million dollar error that will have been compounded next season when the Giants surrender a third round draft choice to the Dolphins as compensation for signing Zonk after the WFL folded. Willie Spencer, a teammate of Csonka's at Memphis, hasn't done anything of merit in his NFL journey that also has included trails with the Vikings and the Redskins. Bobby Hammond could well be the club's MVP. Earns every nickel as a runner (577 yards), return specialist (combined production of 753 yards on punt and kick returns) and pass receiver with 19 catches for a 7.6 average. Hammond also scored a total of four TDs. Gordon Bell has virtually disappeared while Marsh White spent the season on the injured reserve list.

GRADE D+

RECEIVERS: Too bad Danny Buggs has so much trouble (26 receptions — more than any Giant) catching the ball for the Redskins. Fortunately, the Giants did not make the same kind of mistake in evaluating number two pick Johnny Perkins who overcame persistent ankle problems to finish his rookie season with 20 catches and a 14.0 average. Potential of Emery Morehead and Gary Dixon major pluses. Gary Shirk adequate at TE and will face challenge from Dixon. Jimmy Robinson — 22 receptions for an impressive 19.2 average — continues to prove the scouts wrong.

GRADE C-

OFFENSIVE LINE: Think the Giant line is inconsistent? What about the coaches? One guy says there isn't anyone capable of playing for an average NFL club while John McVay touts Doug Van Horn (who played out his option) for the Pro Bowl. Former number one pick John Hicks wants out and since he was benched for a free agent — Mike Gibbons — who never played guard before, not even in the WFL, one has the feeling Hicks just might get his fondest wish granted. Gordon Gravelle, a sometimes starter with the Steelers, gets hurt too much, but not as often as Tom Mullen. Took McVay forever to go with Karl Chandler over former WFL pupil Ralph Hill at center. Ron Mikolajczyk and the aforementioned Gibbons, however, turned out to be pleasant surprises. Addition of Jerry Wampfler to coaching staff should upgrade club's technique if not performance.

GRADE D+

DEFENSIVE LINE: Main strength of a very tough and aggressive defense that excels against the run. Only problem here is that John Mendenhall played out his option and may seek employment elsewhere. Jack Gregory is also unhappy with general tone of the club and would dearly love to play closer to home because of young son's health problems. Such unrest could mean a place to play for Gary Jeter, the number one pick from USC whom many people seem unwilling to endorse as a bona-fide potential super star. No doubt about ability of Troy Archer, the team's 1976 first round selection. Archer is a premier tackle and could start for Dallas. George Martin, even though handicapped by knee problems, still kept Jeter on the bench, primarily because he makes all the plays, big or not.

GRADE A

LINEBACKERS: Brad Van Pelt was again voted pro-bowl honors and again was deserving of such credit. Van Pelt is key to aggressive linebacking corps and has improved pass coverage to the point where it is becoming an asset instead of a liability. Van Pelt also has a nose for the ball and an uncommon knack for the big play. Harry Carson earned the same distinction in the middle but he failed to receive either the recognition or the votes. Brian Kelley proved the wisdom in dealing away Pat Hughes. Unit is particularly strong against the run because of excellent

pursuit capability of Kelley and Carson, Key Stat: Carson well over the 100 mark in combined tackles.

GRADE A

SECONDARY: If Giants can improve personnel in this area they will have one of the best overall defenses in the league, and everyone knows defense wins games. Yet, as of now, this is still the flaw in an otherwise solid defensive unit. Bill Bryant, who led the club with three interceptions, is a journey man type cornerback while Ray Rhodes needs lots of work in a role he does not relish. Opposing QBs seemed delighted to throw the ball his way and will probably concentrate on his side of the field once again. Clyde Powers and Jim Stienke form aggressive but rather slow safety duo. Club's primary need on this side of the football.

GRADE D

KICKING GAME: Somewhat effective in both phases. Dave Jennings is quality punter who can kick either for average or field position. Joe Danelo has a very strong leg as well as a tendency to hook the ball on shorter attempts. Bobby Hammond is an excellent return specialist who could be supported by speed of Gordon Bell provided the latter develops his third round potential.

GRADE C+

COACHING: Tough to evaluate. McVay does some things really well (beating the Redskins) and others —12.8 scoring average — hardly at all. Club lacks imaginative offensive strategy and Bob Gibson has caught most of the heat here. Jay Fry didn't come close to doing as well with the offensive line as he did with the defense and has been shifted to special teams and the weightlifting coaching assignment. Fry will be replaced by Jerry Wampfler who did a fairly effective job in revamping the Bills famed Electric company. Dick Modzelewski, one of the Giants' most popular defensive linemen in the glory days, returns to the House of Mara as defensive co-ordinator after a ten-year coaching stint with the Browns. Combined moves appear to have strengthened McVay's staff considerably.

GRADE C+

FRONT OFFICE: Andy Robustelli has been reported anxious to return to private business but agreed to stay on out of sense of commitment to Wellington Mara. Giants have horrible draft record since the Sherman era and really need major overhaul in this area. Jim Trimble, former NFL and CFL head coach, oversees pro side of things while Jim Lee Howell is nominal head of college department. Jerry Shay is a fine scout who unfortunately, isn't listened to enough.

GRADE D-

PREDICTION: Strong defense could keep Giants in most of their games thanks to somewhat easier schedule. Fine defense against the run will be sorely tested early on with September games against the Forty-Niners and Dallas. Give the Giants some offensive punch and they could well be spoilers. Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be all that much assistance in evidence. Consequently, Giants will battle Eagles for fourth place.

Troy Archer can handle the tough life in the pits.

NEW YORK GIANTS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Bob Hammond	154	577	3.7	30	3
INTERCEPTIONS	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**LG**	**TD**
Bill Bryant	3	54	18.0	54	1
PUNT RETURNS	**NO**	**FC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**LG**	**TD**
Bob Hammond	32	8	334	10.4	68	1

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
J. Pisarcik	241	103	42.7	1346	4	14	5.8

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Jimmy Robinson	22	422	19.2	80	3
KICK-OFF RETURNS	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**LG**	**TD**
Bob Hammond	19	419	22.1	31	0

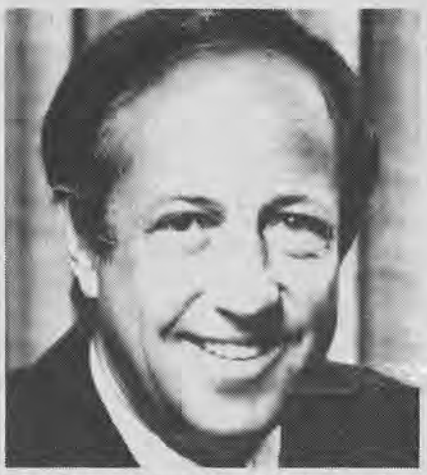
PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
Dave Jennings	100	58	39.9	32.3
SCORING	**XP**	**XPA**	**FG**	**FGA**	**PTS**
Joe Danelo	19	20	14	23	61

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
77	Archer, Troy	DT	6-4/250	3	1/16/55	Colorado	14
25	Bell, Gordon	RB	5-9/180	3	12/25/53	Michigan	10
83	Brown, Boyd	TD	6-4/230	5	5/24/52	Alcorn State	6
21	Bryant, Bill	CB	5-11/195	3	1/15/51	Grambling	14
53	Carson, Harry	LB	6-2/235	3	11/26/53	So. Caro. St.	14
61	Chandler, Karl	C	6-5/250	5	2/15/52	Princeton	14
39	Csonka, Larry	RB	6-3/235	10	12/25/46	Syracuse	14
18	Danelo, Joe	K	5-9/166	4	9/2/53	WSU	14
15	Dean, Randy	QB	6-3/195	2	6/10/55	Northwestern	1
84	Dixon, Al	TE	6-5/220	2	4/5/54	Iowa State	8
65	Ellenbogen, W.	G	6-5/255	3	12/8/50	Virginia Tech	12
79	Gibbons, Mike	G	6-4/262	3	1/23/51	S.W. Okla. St.	5
12	Golsteyn, Jerry	QB	6-4/210	2	8/6/54	No. Illinois	6
71	†Gravelle, G	T	6-5/252	7	6/12/49	BYU	14
81	Gregory, Jack	DE	6-5/250	12	10/3/44	Delta State	14
33	Hammond, Bob	RB	5-10/170	3	2/20/52	Morgan State	14
30	Hart, Harold	RB	6-0/205	4	7/13/52	Tex. Southern	1
74	Hicks, John	G	6-2/258	5	3/21/51	Ohio State	10
52	Hill, Ralph	C	6-1/245	3	11/10/49	Florida A&M	12
13	Jennings, Dave	P	6-4/205	5	6/8/52	St. Lawrence	14
70	Jeter, Gray	DT	6-4/260	2	1/24/55	USC	14
31	Jones, Ernie	S	6-3/180	3	1/3/53	Miami	14
55	Kelley, Brian	LB	6-3/222	6	9/1/55	Cal. Lutheran	13
44	Kotar, Doug	RB	5-11/205	5	6/11/51	Kentucky	12
54	Lloyd, Dan	LB	6-2/225	3	11/9/53	Washington	14
34	Mallory, Larry	S	5-11/185	3	7/21/52	Tennessee St.	14
51	Marion, Frank	LB	6-3/228	2	3/16/51	Florida A&M	3
89	Marshall, Ed	WR	6-5/200	4	9/23/47	Cameron State	14
75	Martin, George	DE	6-4/245	4	2/16/53	Oregon	10
64	†Mendenhall, J.	DT	6-1/255	7	12/3/48	Grambling	14
62	Mikolajczyk, R.	T	6-3/275	3	6/2/50	Tampa	13
80	Moorehead, E.	WR	6-2/210	2	3/22/54	Colorado	13
73	Mullen, Tom	G	6-3/250	5	11/30/51	S.W. Mo. St.	8
86	Perkins, Johnny	WR	6-2/205	2	4/21/53	Abilene Ch.	13
76	Pietrzak, Jim	DT	6-5/260	4	2/21/53	Ea. Michigan	14
9	Pisarcik, Joe	QB	6-4/220	2	7/2/52	NMS	13
29	Powers, Clyde	S	6-1/195	5	9/19/51	Oklahoma	14
28	Reece, Beasley	CB	6-1/193	3	3/18/54	No. Tex. St.	10
22	Rhodes, Ray	CB	5-11/185	5	10/20/50	Tulsa	14
85	Robinson, J.	WR	5-9/170	3	1/3/53	Georgia Tech	14
57	Selfridge, Andy	LB	6-3/220	6	1/12/49	Virginia	11
87	Shirk, Gary	TE	6-1/220	3	2/23/50	Morehead St.	14
27	Spencer, Willie	RB	6-4/235	3	1/28/53	No College	13
20	Stienke, Jim	S	5-11/182	6	11/7/50	S.W. Tex. St.	14
68	Turner, J.T.	DT	6-3/250	2	4/17/53	Duke	13
63	†Van Horn, D.	T	6-3/245	12	6/24/44	Ohio State	14
10	Van Pelt, B.	LB	6-5/235	6	4/5/51	MSU	14
36	Watkins, Larry	RB	6-2/230	10	10/5/46	Alcorn St.	9
24	White, Marsh	RB	6-2/220	3	4/1/53	Arkansas	*0

*White missed entire '77 season due to injury.
† Option playout; subject to developments.

Conversation with Pete Rozelle



FA— Why are you extending the regular-season schedule to 16 games?

ROZELLE— Not enough clubs were doing well financially with six pre-season games. The decision was to drop two pre-season games and add two regular-season games.

FA— Will the 16-game schedule produce more big games?

ROZELLE— It should. In going to 16 games, we felt we had to have what we call "position scheduling" where a team's schedule is determined by where it finishes in its division each year. This will produce more games between the top teams, as well as more games between lesser teams. We needed "position scheduling" to help sustain a one-seventh longer schedule and to produce more games between the top teams for TV both for the Sunday doubleheader games and the prime-time games.

FA— Twelve of the 28 teams have earned about 90 percent of the playoff berths since the 1970 realignment. Isn't more competitive balance needed?

ROZELLE— The new "position scheduling" should help. Some of the "down" teams should move up and some of the "up" teams should drop. What "position scheduling" will prevent is a team such as the 1976 Giants, which finished last in the NFC East the previous season, having to play so many top teams just because that's the way the old "rotation scheduling" worked.

FA— What's your reaction to Ralph Nader's new FANS organization?

ROZELLE— I feel the NFL probably has been subjected to more public scrutiny than the average business corporation. I've testified in Congress more than 20 times on everything from immigration regarding foreign place-kickers to the merger. We've had dealings with all the government agencies—The National Labor Relations Board, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the Internal Revenue Service as well as the Justice Department and several federal and state courts. We're scrutinized very carefully. We can't hide much.

FA— With the American Conference teams dominating the Super Bowl by winning eight of the last nine games and having a decided edge in interconference games this season with a 19-9 won-lost record, shouldn't the playoff formula be revised so that two teams from the same conference could meet in the Super Bowl?

ROZELLE— Most NFL people feel strongly about conference identity. Any playoff formula mixing the two conferences would jeopardize the conference championship games and we want to keep those games.

FA— Has the site of the Super Bowl evolved into a New Orleans-Miami-Pasadena rotation?

ROZELLE— It's a natural cycle, but we're not committed to it. Houston and Dallas remain possible sites. So does the Silverdome outside Detroit where they're campaigning for the 1981 game. That Stadium has 80,000 seats. But the Kingdome in Seattle has only 64,000 seats. We were spoiled by the Rose Bowl last year with more than 100,000 seats. Tickets for the game in New Orleans this year are the tightest they've ever been.

FA— Isn't $30 too much for a Super Bowl ticket?

ROZELLE— Not judging by the demand. We don't consider it out of line. I believe the Rose Bowl ticket is now $20, including mailing.

FA— Has your anti-violence edict, issued shortly before the season began, had a positive effect?

ROZELLE— Idon't know if it's helped but regular-season penalties for personal fouls and unnecessary roughness were down 13 percent from the previous year. The decrease has been influenced, I think, by several reasonable factors—my memo, the Lynn Swann-George Atkinson court case, the one-game suspension of the Bengals' Mel Morgan and the attention of the TV instant-replay camera.

FA— What about the scene put on by Conrad Dobler of the Cardinals late in the Thanksgiving Day game with the Dolphins, and the reported $14,000 in fines for players on both teams?

ROZELLE— Dobler lost his temper on the sideline after he had been ejected. But he and most of the Cardinal players were not aware that Bob Matheson and Kim Bokamper of the Dolphins had been ejected for fighting. I think that's what set him off. On the field during the fights, he had acted like June Allyson in a Peter Pan collar. But there were several subliminal problems in that incident—the score (the Dolphins won, 55-14), the chatter between Dobler and the Dolphins' A.J. Duhe, the knee injury to the Dolphins' Vern Den Herder. At the time most of the Dolphins thought Dobler had injured Den Herder but when they looked at their game-film later, they realized that Dobler had been blocked into Den Herder.

FA— With the increased domination by defense, what rule changes are being considered to help the offense?

ROZELLE— We have a list of suggestions from fans, media and NFL people that will be considered by our Competition Committee. I'm not saying any will be adopted but all will be discussed. One, let offensive backs be in motion toward the line of scrimmage prior to the snap. Two, relocate the hash marks wider apart so that a team would have a wider side of the field to run or pass to. Three, liberalize the pass-blocking rules as to what constitutes holding; this would help not only the offense but also would help preserve quarterbacks from injury. Four, permit linemen to block downfield on a pass play as long as the receiver catches, drops or fumbles the pass behind the line of scrimmage. Five, reduce the number of offensive players required to be on the line of scrimmage; five backs and six linemen, so to speak. Six, restrict the actions of defensive players on offensive receivers; eliminate the one-bump rule, for example.

FA— Is the Competition Committee considering any other legislation?

ROZELLE— Paul Brown would like to have a limit put on film exchange. His argument is that with all the information available now to be put into computers, the defense is shutting down the offense. I don't know if a film-exchange is feasible but I know Paul would like to see it explored.

FA— Judging by your mail, what NFL issues are the fans most concerned with?

ROZELLE— Cheap shots because of the bad example to youngsters, and officiating.

FA— What proposals are you considering in order to upgrade the overall level of officiating?

ROZELLE— One plan would be to have at least one fulltime official in each crew. Another is to have all fulltime officials but it seems to me that if all our officials were fulltime, we would lose many of our best officials—those who couldn't afford to work for us fulltime. But the basic problem with officiating is judgment. And no matter what changes we make, we can't teach judgment.

FA— Shouldn't teams that tie in won-lost record for a playoff berth have a one-game playoff instead of resorting to the tie-breaking formula?

ROZELLE— That would disrupt the playoff schedule. Imagine if we had a three-way tie, like we almost had in the AFC East this time. And a playoff for first-place might also affect the wild-card situation. I think our tie-breaker formula is the fairest possible solution.

Graybeard Vikes To Freeze Foes Out

NFC CENTRAL

1978 PREDICTED FINISH

FINAL 1977 NFL TEAM STANDINGS

	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Op
Minnesota	9	5	0	.643	231	227
Chicago	9	5	0	.643	255	253
Detroit	6	8	0	.429	183	252
Green Bay	4	10	9	.286	134	219
Tampa Bay	2	12	0	.143	103	223

NFC Championship
Dallas 23, Minnesota 6

The Vikings are once again a slight favorite to edge out the rest of their Central Division foes.

Monte Clark, known mostly for his ability to motivate and teach players, has already given indications that the moribound Lions will be a distinct threat to the Vikings continued dominance.

Neill Armstrong, a key defensive aide to Grant at Minnesota, takes over control of the Bears in place of Jack Pardee, and will be hard pressed to maintain the team's new found image as a contender.

Green Bay and Tampa figure to wage a stiff contest to stay out of the division basement.

PLAYER PERSONNEL UPDATE

VIKINGS: Randy Holloway joins the likes of Mark Mullaney and James White as the club's trio of number ones in waiting, and will see considerable action on the special teams. John Turner, a highly regarded defensive back, should give Grant another potential bebuilding block for the team's aging secondary. Whip Walton, a third round chioce from San Diego State, has a shot as well, expecially if his linebacking skills can be put to good use on special teams coverage.

LIONS: Tone of Clark's administration was set by stern reaction to Herb Orvis boycott of mini-camp session just prior to the draft. Clark wasted no time in shopping Orvis around via the waiver system. The Colts came up with the best offer — Freddie Scott and a draft choice — and just like that, Orvis, who had been a thorn in the side of both Rick Forzano and Tom Hudspeth (Clark's coaching predecessors) was history. Two other trades should help upgrade the team's defense and kicking game. Dave Washington, a fine big play performer for Clark at San Francisco, was imported for a future draft pick. Tom Skladany (originally drafted number-two by the Browns, Skladany and agent Howard Slusher refused to accept the Browns' offer, and sat out the season) will upgrade the club's kicking game considerably. As far as the draft is concerned, the Lions feel strongly that they added a pair of potential starters with the one-two selection of Luther Bradley and Al Baker. The Lions utilized their next four selections to strengthen the offensive line, with Homer Elias, the gifted Tenn State prospect who went up in most scouts' opinions because of an impressive Senior Bowl performance, having the best chance to crack the regular lineup.

BEARS: Bears feel fortunate to have dealt Wally Chambers to Tampa for Bob Moore and the Buccaneers number one choice next season. With Chambers among the departed, the Bears had need of a quality pass rusher and Finks felt the acquisition of Tommy Hart from the Forty-Niners was well worth the second round price tag Joe Thomas set on Hart's services. With the club having surrendered this year's number one pick to Cleveland for Mike Phipps, the draft offered little excitement. Number three pick Brad Shearer, winner of the Outland Trophy, was available because of his long string of poor post-season performances highlighted by the whipping he took from Notre Dame's Ernie Hughes. Walt Pautlski was signed as a free agent after the Cards gave up on the former Notre Dame star.

PACKERS: Aside from the first round selection of James Lofton, the Stanford receiver whom most scouts felt was second only to Wes Chandler as far as ability to do things with the football after catching it, the Packers other high choices, number one pick John Anderson of Michigan and second round selection Mike Hunt, another linebacking prospect from Minnesota, were considered to be surprises.

BUCCANEERS: Tampa, ignoring the pressing need for quality help up front, surprised most personnel experts with their first round selection of Grambling's super QB prospect, Doug Williams, The decision to trade for Wally Chambers and Ernie Holmes is also curious, considering that Holmes will have a tough time starting in the club's 3-4 alignment. And, if Chambers' knee is not fully healed, then the club could have lost the gamble which called for the Bears to receive the Buccs first round selection in 1979. Then there are some critics who also feel that Tampa did not get enough from Houston in exchange for the first pick in the draft. However, TE Jimmy Giles will surprise those critics when he winds up in the starting lineup. Follow-up swap of Anthony Davis to Houston for former number one pick Don Hardeman represented codicil to Campbell deal. Number two pick Brett Moritz an OG from Nebraska who never even started for the Huskers, is a curious prospect but the club's other number two selection, Alabama's Johnny Davis is a provem power runner. Yet, his selection was hard to figure because of the Buccs' top heavy complement of runners.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

1978 Schedule		
9/3	at New Orl.	1:00
9/11	DEN. (Mon.)	8:00
9/17	TAMPA BAY	1:00
9/25	at Chi. (Mon)	8:00
10/1	at Tampa Bay	1:00
10/8	at Seattle	1:00
10/15	LOS ANG.	3:00
10/22	GREEN BAY	1:00
10/26	at Dal.(Thurs)	7:30
11/5	DETROIT	1:00
11/12	CHICAGO	3:00
11/19	SAN DIEGO	1:00
11/26	at Green Bay	1:00
12/3	PHILA.	1:00
12/9	at Detroit(Sat)	4:00
12/17	at Oakland	1:00

1977 Results		
9/18	DAL. (+2½)*	10-16
9/25	at T. B. (+14)	9-3
10/2	G. B. (+12)	19-7
10/9	DETROIT (+9)	14-7
10/16	CHIC. (+6½)*	22-16
10/24	at L. A. (-1½)	3-35
10/30	at Atlanta (+4)	14-7
11/6	ST. LOUIS (+4)	7-27
11/13	CINN (+7)	42-10
11/20	at Chicago (-3)	7-10
11/27	at G. B. (+7)	13-6
12/4	S. F. (+7)	28-27
12/11	at Oak. (-11)	13-35
12/17	at Det. (+5½)	30-21

*Overtime

Much to the consternation of divisional rivals, the Vikings continue to play well enough to win the necessary number of games to ensure their annual qualification for post-season play. And, as usual, it is then that the team's history of losing the last game it plays comes back to haunt if not embarrass the National Football Conference.

If, however, the Bears and the Lions are awaiting continued decline in the ranks of Bud Grant's veteran legion, they would be wise to guard against overconfidence because such fall is not in the immediate future.

It is easy for the most knowledgable of NFL observers to be critical of the Vikings even when Fran Tarkenton is healthy. There are constant cries of too much age and the general feeling that the vaunted Viking defense has become quite vulnerable to long range aerial artistry.

Yet, behind nearly every graybearded veteran there seems to be proven talent. For instance, Mark Mullaney is ready to play and this could well be the season the former number one pick breaks into the regular lineup. He will be taking his place according to designs similar to the remodelling plan Bud Grant followed in restructuring his linebacking corps. The unit that formerly featured the likes of Lonnie Warwick, Wally Hilgenberg and Roy Winston has been craftily upgraded. And, there isn't a poor player in the group. In fact, many defensive coaches around the league feel that the overall talent of Jeff Siemon, Matt Blair and Fred McNeill supplies the Vikings with one of the premier set of young linebackers in the sport.

Offensively, the Vikings are counting on the return of Fran Tarkenton, whose wounded knee and broken bones have seemingly healed. No doubt the Vikes missed Tarkenton a great deal but the overall performance of Tommy Kramer and Bob Lee was still good enough to win the division but not nearly as offensive enough to knock off the Cowboys. Still, the Vikings have some very gifted people at the forefront of the club's attack. Sammy White and Chuck Foreman are multi-talented offensive performers that give the Vikings a constant game-breaking threat.

According to plan, Grant will welcome back Marshall, Eller and Krause because he is not quite ready to replace them all at the same time. However, if injuries and sudden physical decline do cause Grant to look to his bench too often, the Vikings might just stumble over a rather difficult schedule that includes pairings with Denver, Oakland, Dallas and the Rams.

QUARTERBACK: Even with Tarkenton healthy, the Viking passing game made more than its usual share of mistakes in the form of 22 interceptions, a figure which was one more than twice the 1976 total. Accordingly, Tarkenton's rating slipped to third best in the NFC behind Staubach and Haden. Even so, Fran completed 60.1% of his passes for the most accurate set of credentials in the entire league. Tommy Kramer surprised his critics with a fine display of passing against the Bengals and should give veteran Bob Lee some competition for the number two slot.

GRADE A

RUNNING BACK: What a formidable weapon Chuck Foreman is. A gifted runner—1,112 yards and a 4.1 average—with speed and power as well as a talented receiver—38 catches for 308 yards—, Foreman can and does score (23 times in the last two seasons) from just about anywhere on the field. No doubt Grant would welcome a big FB type who can do all the things that people like Robert Miller, Brent McClanahan, Sammy Johnson and Mark Kellar specialize in as a balanced counterpart to Foreman's role as the fulcrum of the Viking attack.

GRADE A-

RECEIVERS: Superb blend of speed, moves and experience. Sammy White ranks with Drew Pearson as NFC's premier wide receiver. Sammy continued to explode against opposing secondaries in the style that made him rookie of the year two seasons ago. White caught 41 passes for an 18.5 average and nine more TDs to go with his 10 scores as a rookie. Ahmad Rashad jumped to the top of the NFC receiving stats with another solid season — 51 receptions, 681 yards and a 13.4 average. Bob Tucker and Stu Voight provide superior catching and blocking ability at TE. Overall, the Vikes may just well have the most talented group of receivers in the NFC, especially when Foreman's talents are taken into consideration.

GRADE A+

OFFENSIVE LINE: Another hidden strength of this club. Although absence of Ed White hurt at the beginning of the season, Wes Hamilton gained needed experience. White, who staged a brief retirement because of the Vikes unwillingness to pay him up to pro bowl standards, played out his option and tested the free agent market. If the Vikings are unable to sign White, their running game will suffer considerably. Ron Yary was voted to the Pro Bowl, but mostly on reputation. Yary had tough time against Ed Jones in the loss to the Cowboys, and it is no secret that the better DEs around the league lack their former respect for one of the game's finest offensive tackles. Mick Tingelhoff is two steps away from retirement. Charles Goodrum and Art Riley do fine job on left side of Viking line but do not receive the publicity given to Yary and White. Dennis Swilley, last year's number two pick, along with Wes Hamilton, give the team talented depth.

GRADE A

DEFENSIVE LINE: Admittedly, the Viking pass rush is not nearly as ferocious as in the prime seasons of the Purple Gang. However, it just wouldn't seem the same if Eller, Page and Marshall aren't in the starting lineup. Grant is of the same opinion and even though Mark Mullaney is ready and James White is available, Grant is not likely to make a change willingly. In fact, Doug Sutherland, the youngest of the starters here, could be the first to step down. Eller seems ageless while Marshall is still a cut above average.

GRADE B

LINEBACKERS: Jeff Siemon also made the Pro Bowl on rep rather than overall top level performance. Siemon was handicapped throughout the season with a severely pulled calf muscle that restricted his mobility. Scott Studwell, a ninth round draft choice whose ability was obviously underrated, did particularly well in several pinch 'hitting' appearances for Siemon in the middle. Matt Blair and Fred McNeill starred on the outside while Wally Hilgenberg is rapidly approaching the end of a memorable career.

GRADE A-

SECONDARY: While the statistics might not show it—just sixteen interceptions—the Vikings still played a

frustrating brand of pass coverage. Ranked third in the NFL in overall pass defense, the veteran secondary comprised of Bryant, Nate Wright and Nate Allen on the corners, and Krause and Jeff Wright at the safety positions managed to enjoy yet another good season. Phil Wise is an adequate back-up with good versatility.

GRADE B+

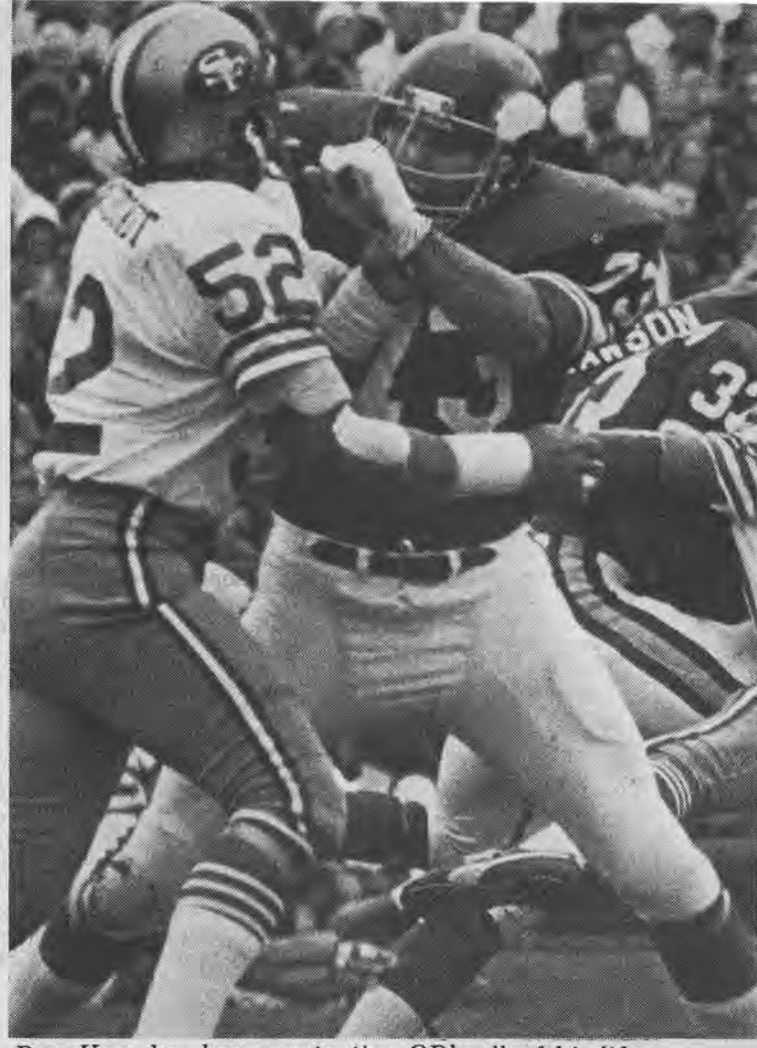
KICKING GAME: With the announced retirement of Fred Cox, the Vikings will be in the market for a qualified replacement. Rick Danmier will be among the major contenders while Neil Clabo continues to give Grant some exceptionally clutch punting. When it comes to blocking kicks no one does it better than Nate Allen, Matt Blair, and Alan Page, all of whom excell at this vital specialty. Grant will be looking for some qualified return help to bolster this phase of the game which ranked next to last in the league. Manfred Moore did an adequate job as a punt returner.

GRADE B-

COACHING: There are very few coaches with better records than Bud Grant. Another divisional championship won under trying circumstances proves why. Grant's staff is molded in the same image. Jerry Burns is in charge of the offense while Jocko Nelson is the dean of Grant's defensive lieutenants. Viking staff is still one of the smallest in the league.

GRADE A+

FRONT OFFICE: General Manager Mike Lynn was rewarded with a new contract by the Viking ownership headed by Max Winter. Lynn, who organized the original Memphis drive for NFL membership is rated a fine businessman whose football expertise is open to question.



Ron Yary has been protecting QB's all of his life.

Lynn takes a hard line in dealing with veteran players and is quite unpopular. Personnel boss Jerry Reichow has done a fine job in last four seasons (15 players and six starters added via the draft) and is ably assisted by Frank Gilliam.

GRADE B-

PREDICTION: Vikings still benefit from playing in the game's weakest division, but their continued dominance could be subject to challenge by the Lions and the Bears. Yet, Grant is well disciplined in his approach to utilizing personnel properly and will no doubt be ready with capable replacements for some of his aging defensive starters. Consequently, team will be tough to dethrone.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Chuck Foreman	270	1112	4.1	51	6

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Bobby Bryant	4	44	11.0	41	0

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Manfred Moore	47	2	277	5.9	28	0

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
F. Tarkenton	258	155	60.1	1734	9	14	5.4

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Ahmad Rashad	51	681	13.4	48	2
Sammy White	41	760	18.5	69	9

KICK-OFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Manfred Moore	24	524	21.8	48	0

PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
Neil Clabo	83	69	39.8	31.3

SCORING	TD	TDR	TDP	PTS
Chuck Foreman	9	6	3	54

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
25	Allen, Nate	CB	5-11/174	8	5/13/48	Tex. Southern	14
21	Blahak, Joe	CB	5-10/185	6	8/29/50	Nebraska St.	12
59	Blair, Matt	LB	6-5/229	5	9/20/51	Iowa State	14
20	Bryant, Bobby	CB	6-1/170	10	1/24/44	USC	14
12	Clabo, Neil	P	6-2/200	4	11/18/52	Tennessee	14
84	†Craig, Steve	TE	6-3/231	5	3/13/51	Northwestern	14
57	Dumler, Doug	C	6-3/242	6	12/15/50	Nebraska	14
81	Eller, Carl	DE	6-6/247	15	2/25/42	Minnesota	14
44	Foreman, Chuck	RB	6-2/207	6	10/26/50	Miami	14
68	Goodrum, Chas.	T	6-3/256	6	1/11/50	Florida A&M	14
26	Grim, Bob	WR	6-0/188	12	5/8/45	Oregon St.	14
61	Hamilton, Wes	G	6-3/255	3	4/24/53	Tulsa	14
45	Hannon, Tom	S	5-11/193	2	3/5/55	Michigan St.	12
58	Hilgenberg, W.	LB	6-3/229	15	9/19/42	Iowa	11
76	Jackson, Joe	DT	6-4/262	4	5/7/50	NMS	13
48	Johnson, Sammy	RB	6-1/226	5	9/22/52	UNC	14
39	Kellar, Mark	RB	6-0/225	3	7/17/52	No. Illinois	14
9	Kramer, Tommy	QB	6-1/199	2	3/7/55	Rice	6
22	Krause, Paul	S	6-3/205	15	2/19/42	Iowa	14
19	Lee, Bob	QB	6-2/195	10	8/7/46	Pacific	5
70	Marshall, Jim	DE	6-4/240	19	12/30/37	Ohio State	14
33	McClanahan, B.	RB	5-10/202	6	9/21/50	Arizona St.	14
54	McNeill, Fred	LB	6-2/229	5	5/6/52	UCLA	14
35	Miller, Robert	RB	5-11/204	4	1/9/53	Kansas	14
36	Moore, Manfred	RB	6-0/200	5	12/22/50	USC	12
77	Mullaney, Mark	DE	6-6/242	4	4/30/53	Colorado St.	14
88	Page, Alan	DT	6-4/245	12	8/7/45	Notre Dame	14
28	Rashad, Ahmad	WR	6-2/200	6	11/19/49	Oregon	14
78	Riley, Steve	T	6-6/258	5	11/23/52	USC	14
50	Siemon, Jeff	LB	6-3/237	7	6/2/50	Stanford	14
55	Studwell, Scott	LB	6-2/224	2	8/27/54	Illinois	14
69	Sutherland, Doug	DT	6-3/250	9	4/1/48	Sup. St. (Wisc.)	14
67	Swilley, Dennis	G	6-3/241	2	6/28/55	Texas A&M	14
10	Tarkenton, F.	QB	6-0/185	18	2/3/40	Georgia	9
53	Tingelhoff, Mick	C	6-2/240	17	5/22/40	Nebraska	14
38	Tucker, Bob	TE	6-3/230	9	6/8/45	Bimsbrg St.	*13
83	Voigt, Stu	TE	6-1/225	9	8/12/48	Wisconsin	14
62	†White, Ed	G	6-3/270	10	4/4/47	California	13
72	White, James	DT	6-3/263	3	10/26/53	Okla. St.	14
85	White, Sammy	WR	5-11/189	3	3/16/54	Grambling	14
29	†Wise, Phil	S	6-0/193	7	4/25/49	Neb. (Omaha)	13
23	Wright, Jeff	S	5-11/190	8	6/31/49	Minnesota	14
43	Wright, Nate	CB	5-11/180	10	12/21/47	San Diego St.	14
73	Yary, Ron	T	6-6/255	11	8/16/46	USC	14

*Tucker played 5 games with New York Giants in 1977.
†Option playout; subject to developments. Retired: Fred Fox

DETROIT LIONS

1978 Schedule		
9/3	GREEN BAY	1:00
9/9	at Tampa(Sat.)	8:00
9/17	CHICAGO	1:00
9/24	at Seattle	1:00
10/1	at G.B. (Milw.)	1:00
10/8	WASH.	1:00
10/15	at Atlanta	1:00
10/22	SAN DIEGO	1:00
10/29	at Chicago	1:00
11/5	at Minnesota	1:00
11/12	TAMPA BAY	1:00
11/19	at Oakland	1:00
11/23	DEN.(Thnks)	12:30
12/3	at St. Louis	1:00
12/9	MINN. (Sat.)	4:00
12/17	SAN FRAN.	1:00

1977 Results		
9/18	at Chicago (-6)	20-30
9/25	N. O. (+6)	23-19
10/2	PHILA. (+7½)	17-13
10/9	at Minn. (-9)	7-14
10/16	G. B. (+7)	10-6
10/23	at S. F. (+1½)	7-28
10/30	at Dallas (-13½)	0-37
11/6	SAN DIEGO (-4)	20-0
11/13	at Atlanta (-4)	6-17
11/20	T. B. (+14)	16-7
11/24	CHIC. (-2½)	14-31
12/4	at G. B. (-1)	9-10
12/11	at Balt. (-15)	13-10
12/17	MINN. (-5½)	21-30

Upon taking up the challenge of getting maximum performance out of what most people around the NFL consider fairly decent talent, Monte Clark's first decision was to make up his own mind about the curious inconsistency that seems to haunt the Lions.

Clark, who spent last year running a local hamburger franchise which he owns with Don Shula when his coach of the year performance wasn't enough to keep him at the helm of the Forty-Niners, feels there is considerable talent on the Lion squad and that past performance will matter hardly at all once the club reports to training camp.

One thing is for certain. The Lions, possessors of one of the most dismal pass protection records in the league—Detroit QBs have been sacked a stunning total of 121 times in the past two years—are assured of having improved play up front. Clark, who forged his reputation as one of Shula's finest assistants, has the knack for getting the most out of available talent. The Lions have a good nucleus of offensive linemen who should benefit handsomely from Clark's instructional expertise.

In addition to the woefull pass protection, Clark must also find a remedy for an ailing passing game as well as a way to reverse the club's turnabout in scoring differential. Not only did the Lion defense give up more points than in 1976 but the offense had a corresponding drop in overall scoring efficiency that saw the club finish with a very disappointing differential of -69 compared to last year's plus ratio of 42. That figures out to a nasty swing of over 100 points.

On the plus side, Clark has an explosive running attack — if everyone is healthy — as well as quality receivers. Defensively, the team needs to gain more consistency in terms of exerting a stronger pass rush while the secondary continues to be a prime asset.

QUARTERBACK: Lions offer classic case of QB dilemma that often results in a coach getting axed. Tommy Hudspeth would be quick to agree. Greg Landry is the veteran who still has a decent arm but who has been plagued with severe knee problems of late which restrict his maneuverability. However, with the team in an offensive tailspin, Hudspeth finished up the season with Gary Danielson, an ex-WFL performer, at the helm of one of the NFC's weakest attacks. Clark will probably wind up going with Landry as long as Greg remains healthy. Landry was ranked fourth in the NFC passing charts and completed better than 56% of his attempts. Danielson did well enough in his short starting stint and proved he has the arm and potential to play in the NFL. However, Clark will be loathe to gamble with the factor of inexperience at this crucial spot. Joe Reed, the former 49er is caught in the middle. Reed has a good arm and can cause trouble with excellent mobility, but just doesn't seem to take full advantage of the opportunities that come his way.

GRADE C+

RUNNING BACK: Loss of last year's top performer, Lawrence Gaines hurt overall effectiveness of running game. Absence of Gaines did afford playing time for number three pick Rick Kane who did well enough—421 yards and a 3.6 average — despite a propensity for untimely fumbles. Dexter Bussey started out in spectacular fashion — 388 yards and a 4.0 average in the first three weeks of play — but was also victimized by knee troubles. Horace King, another gifted runner, finished as the club's leading rusher with a total of 521 yards and a respectable 3.4 average. Former Raider great Marv Hubbard saw key spot duty and is nearing the end of a fine career.

GRADE B+

RECEIVERS: Talented group of receivers with good speed and fine blend of youth and experience. Unit suffers because of inconsistent quarterbacking. J. D. Hill, acquired from Buffalo two seasons ago, overcame lingering effect of knee problems and finished with 24 catches and an unattractive 10.4 average, David Hill, who spent the initial part of his NFL career playing in the shadow of Charlie Sanders, blossomed into a fine talent and finished with 32 catches. Sanders has slowed down somewhat and was plagued with injuries, but he can still block and has kept his knack for big play heroics. Ray Jarvis continues consistent play and represents one of Russ Thomas' better free agent pick-ups.

GRADE B

OFFENSIVE LINE: hard to figure why this group of premium draft choices has had such a difficult time protecting passer. Trouble could be traced to constant coaching changes. Clark will be important factor here in that he has proven knack for combining teaching with fundamentals to make average linemen even better and good ones into all-pro candidates. Russ Bolinger, Lynn Boden and Craig Hartwig will be avid students of Clark's teaching. Jon Morris is a talented offensive center with the kind of veteran experience that Clark will enjoy building around. Jim Yarborough and a healthy return from injury on the part of Ken Long, Mark Markovich and Rockne Frietas will also serve to brighten Clark's prospects for improving one of the weaker areas of the team's offensive attack.

GRADE C+

DEFENSIVE LINE: Another collection of early round draft choices who have seemingly failed to play up to considerable potential. Even so, it's tough to run the ball against the Lions. Sometimes. Jim Mitchell and Ken Sanders average set of DEs. Doug English and Herb Orvis handle the tackle assignments and are better against the run than they are in getting to the passer. Sacks against figure increased slightly from 28 to 32, but team lacks a stand-out pass rusher.

GRADE C

LINEBACKERS: With departure of Jimmy Carr, Lion linebacking alignments took on conventional look as Hudspeth stuck with more basic formulas. Lion linebackers are aggressive hitters and seem to get the most out of their ability. MLB Ed O'Neill consistent performer against the run and the pass. Paul Naumhoff tough veteran with penchant for timely play. Charlie Weaver played out his option and club will be poorer for his departure. Garth Ten Napal and injured Ron Crosby will provide Clark with better than adequate depth. Crosby could be fine late round sleeper.

GRADE B

SECONDARY: Doubtful if veteran Lem Barney will return, but if he does, Clark will be glad to have him after way he filled in last year. Alternating between safety and cornerback, Barney came up with several key plays in the latter part of the season. Number two pick Walter Williams was virtually handed starting spot but did not play up to expectations. Still has great talent and better than average

speed. James Hunter, a contender for 1976 defensive rookie of the year laurels, continued his development that seems destined to merit all-pro recognition. Dick Jauron and Charlie West are adequate safeties. Return of Levi Johnson should help as well.

GRADE B

KICKING GAME: Problems continued to haunt Lions in this area. Benny Ricardo was lost with early season knee problems while Herman Weaver was axed prior to start of training camp. Wilbur Summers, released by the Cowboys and the Broncos, did fairly well with a punting average of 36.8 while Steve Mike-Meyer wound up as the nominal replacement for the injured Ricardo. Lions picked up superb return man in Eddie Payton whom the Browns had given up on earlier in the season. Payton had outstanding game in finale against the Lions with a pair of flashy return TDs.

GRADE C+

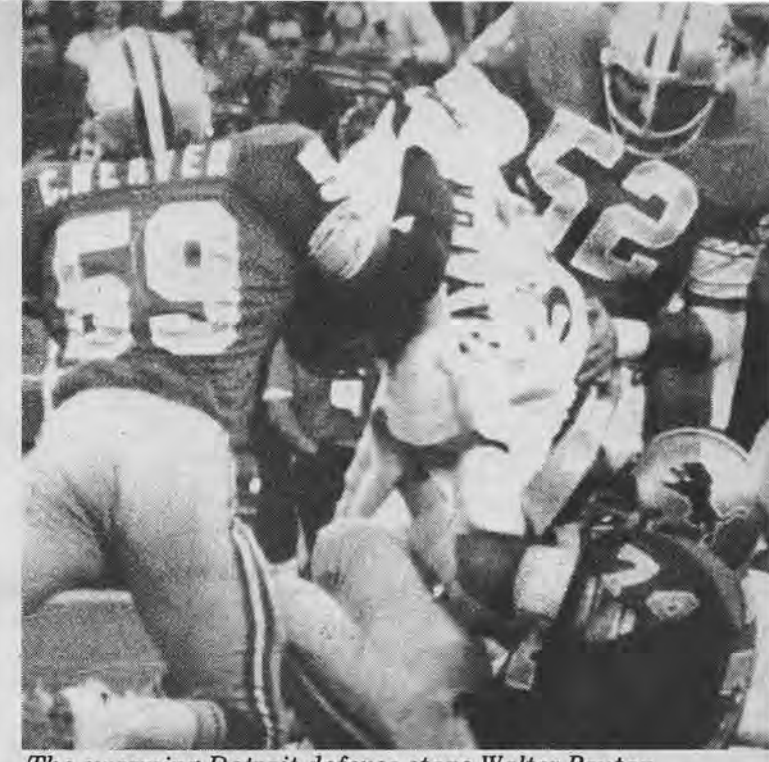
COACHING: Hudspeth spent the entire season on the hot seat and it surprised no one when he got the hook. Clark is being looked at as the man to lead the Lions out of the doldrums of inconsistency and second place that have haunted the team since the almost forgotten wild-card season of 1970. If Clark can put things together offensively, the Lions will have a shot at one of the NFC wild card slots. Don't be surprised if Clark is again in contention for Coach of the Year honors and such award would be a singular accomplishment. Lions have outside shot at repeating success story of last year's Bear squad.

GRADE B

FRONT OFFICE: Clark insisted on having full say in personnel decisions and it will be interesting to see how the Lions shape up in this vital front-office area. Russ Thomas still on the scene and if Clark can co-exist with Thomas he will have gone a long way toward overcoming past problems that had undue influence on the tenures of Forzano and Hudspeth.

GRADE B-

PREDICTION: 'If' figures to be a rather big factor in the 1978 expectations of the Lions. If Greg Landry can stay healthy; if Clark improves the caliber of the club's pass protections; if Gaines can come all the way back from his troublesome knee problems and if the defense can hang tough, the Lions will be an unwelcome addition to most team's schedules. Look for Clark to keep his team in divisional contentention with an outside shot at a wild-card invite.



The swarming Detroit defense stops Walter Payton.

DETROIT LIONS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Horace King	155	521	3.4	35	1

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
James Hunter	6	104	17.3	27	0

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Eddie Payton	30	0	290	9.7	87	1

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
Greg Landry	240	135	56.3	1359	6	7	2.9

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Horace King	40	238	6.0	30	0

KICK-OFF RETURN	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Eddie Payton	22	548	24.9	98	1

PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
Wilbur Summers	93	51	36.8	30.5

SCORING	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Steve Mike-Meyer	19	21	8	19	43

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
60	Anderson,G.	G	6-3/250	2	9/22/55	Stanford	13
20	Barney,L.	DB	6-0/190	12	9/8/45	Jackson St.	12
89	Blue,L.	WR	5-11/190	2	10/21/55	Iowa St.	14
62	Boden,L.	G	6-5/270	4	6/5/53	So.Dak.St.	13
73	Bolinger,R.	G-T	6-5/255	3	9/10/54	Long Beach St.	14
43	Bolton,A.	RB	6-1/205	3	5/23/54	Fisk	14
24	Bussey,D.	RB	6-1/210	5	3/11/52	Tex.Arlngtn	8
16	Danielson,G.	QB	6-2/195	3	9/10/51	Purdue	13
58	Daykin,T.	LB	6-1/215	2	5/13/55	Georgia Tech	14
78	English,D.	DT	6-5/255	4	8/25/53	Texas	14
76	Freitas,R.	T	6-6/275	11	9/7/45	Oregon St.	3
38	Gaines,L.	RB	6-1/240	2	12/15/53	Wyoming	*0
74	Hand,L.	DT	6-4/245	14	7/10/40	Appalachian St.	14
71	Hertwig,C.	T	6-8/270	4	1/15/52	Georgia	14
81	Hill,D.	TE	6-2/220	3	1/1/54	Texas A&I	14
86	Hill,J.D.	WR	6-1/185	8	10/30/48	Arizona St.	11
44	Hubbard,M.	RB	6-1/235	9	5/7/46	Colgate	13
28	Hunter,J.	DB	6-3/195	3	3/8/54	Grambling	14
45	Jarvis,R.	WR	6-1/190	8	2/2/49	Norfolk St.	14
26	†Jauron,D.	DB	6-0/190	6	10/7/50	Yale	14
23	Johnson,L.	DB	6-3/200	6	10/30/50	Texas A&I	3
32	Kane,R.	RB	5-11/200	2	11/12/54	San Jose St.	14
25	King,H.	RB	5-10/210	4	3/5/53	Georgia	14
11	Landry,G.	QB	6-4/205	11	12/18/46	Massachusetts	11
87	Larson,B.	TE	6-4/220	3	10/7/53	Colorado St.	12
52	Laslavic,J.	LB	6-2/240	6	10/24/51	Penn St.	14
68	†Markovich,M.	G-C	6-5/255	5	11/7/52	Penn St.	4
12	Mike-Mayer,S.	K	6-0/180	4	9/8/47	Maryland	14
83	†Mitchell,J.	DE	6-3/250	9	9/15/48	Virgina St.	8
64	Mitchell,M.	C	6-2/260	3	2/21/53	Tenn. St.	*12
63	Morris,J.	C	6-4/250	15	4/5/42	Holy Cross	14
50	Naumoff,P.	LB	6-1/215	12	7/3/45	Tennessee	13
55	†O'Neil,Ed	LB	6-3/235	5	9/8/52	Penn St.	14
80	Orvis,H.	DT	6-5/255	7	10/17/46	Colorado	14
34	Payton,E.	RB	5-8/175	2	8/3/51	Jackson St.	*10
42	Pinkney,R.	DB	5-11/190	2	5/27/55	E Carolina	11
72	Prince,E.	DE	6-4/245	6	9/20/50	Texas A&I	12
14	Reed,J.	QB	6-1/195	7	1/8/48	Miss. St.	3
1	Ricardo,B.	K	5-10/175	2	1/4/54	S.Diego St.	*0
88	Sanders,C.	TE	6-4/230	11	8/25/46	Minnesota	10
82	Sanders,K.	DE	6-5/245	7	8/20/50	Howard Payne	11
79	Simonson,D.	T	6-6/265	5	5/2/52	Minnesota	7
10	Summers,W.	P	6-4/220	3	8/6/54	Louisville	13
57	Ten Napel,G.	LB	6-1/215	3	3/27/54	Texas A&M	14
39	Thompson,L.	WR-RB	5-10/190	4	7/28/52	Oklahoma St.	14
59	†Weaver,C.	LB	6-2/225	8	7/12/49	USC	14
40	West,C.	DB	6-1/190	11	8/31/46	Tex. El Paso	13
21	Williams,W.	DB	6-0/185	2	7/10/54	New Mex. St.	14
77	Woodcock,J.	DE	6-3/240	3	3/19/54	Hawaii	14
75	Yarbrough,J.	T	6-6/270	10	10/28/46	Florida	13

*Ricardo missed '77 season due to injury. Gaines was active for 1 game, but did not play, and missed the remainder of the season due to injury. Mitchell also played 3 games for Miami. Payton also played 2 games for Cleveland.

†Option playout; subject to developments.

CHICAGO BEARS

1978 Schedule		
9/3	ST. LOUIS	1:00
9/10	at San Fran.	1:00
9/17	at Detroit	1:00
9/25	MINN. (Mon.)	8:00
10/1	OAKLAND	3:00
10/8	at Green Bay	1:00
10/16	at Den. (Mon.)	7:00
10/22	at Tampa Bay	1:00
10/29	DETROIT	1:00
11/5	SEATTLE	1:00
11/12	at Minnesota	3:00
11/19	ATLANTA	1:00
11/26	TAMPA BAY	1:00
12/4	at S.D. (Mon.)	6:00
12/10	GREEN BAY	1:00
12/16	at Wash. (Sat.)	1:00

1977 Results		
9/18	DET. (+6)	30-20
9/25	at St.L. (-3)	13-16
10/2	N. O. (+9)	24-42
10/10	L.A. (-4)	24-23
10/16	at Minn. (-6½)*	16-22
10/23	ATL. (+6½)	10-16
10/30	at G.B. (+4½)	26-0
11/6	at Hous. (+2)	0-47
11/13	K.C. (+6½)	28-27
11/20	MINN. (+3)	10-7
11/24	at Det. (+2½)	31-14
12/4	at Tampa (+14)	10-0
12/11	G. B. (+10½)	21-10
12/18	at Giants (+6)*	12-9

*Overtime

Benefitting from what was surely the most accomodating of scheduled opportunity, the Chicago Bears managed to win their final six games of the 1977 regular schedule.

Throughout the final month and a half of Jack Pardee's last season at the helm of the Bears, the club was fortunate indeed to have to play only one team with a winning record. And it took a mammoth effort upon the part of Walter Payton to enable the Bears to knock over the cagey Vikings.

Maybe it was the memory of how poorly the Bears played in that sluggish (0-47) visit to the Astrodome in which Houston administered a thorough pasting, that caused Pardee to think twice before listening to Jim Finks and the Bears efforts to keep him from departing for Washington.

In any case, Neil Armstrong — the former Bud Grant assistant who will be seeking to match the accomplishments of co-worker Jack Patera — will probably prefer to remember the better moments of the Bear season which culminated in the team's first playoff appearance since George Halas left the sidelines.

To be sure, the Bears do have considerable pluses, especially on offense. Walter Payton is the most exciting runner in the sport and the heir-apparent to O.J. Simpson as the games' best. Ted Albrecht and Dennis Lick, a pair of recent number one picks, have given Jim Finks the kind of building blocks on which to design a strong offensive line. Bob Avellini doesn't look good doing it, but manages to get the job done.

Defensively, the club has fairly decent personnnel but without Wally Chambers, their is a distinct need for a star-caliber performer. Chambers, who hurt his knee in the Pro Bowl at Seattle following the 1976 season that saw him earn various awards as the game's premier defensive lineman, is suing the Bears instead of sacking opposing quarterbacks.

Chambers claims that G.M. Jim Fink's comments regarding the lack of rehabilitation and the seriousness of his knee problems, has caused his trade value to diminish considerably. If Chambers is unable to regain his pre-surgery form of two seasons ago, he will have chosen a most inopportune time to have tested the free agent market place.

In addition to the Chambers' affair, Armstrong will also be concerned about the schedule that has the Bears playing the Raiders, Broncos, Redskins and Chargers in addition to the home series with the Vikings and a Lion team that figures to be better coached as well.

QUARTERBACK: Bob Avellini enjoys proving himself to various skeptics. First it was to the Pro Scouts whose collective wisdom allowed the Bears to draft the former Maryland star sixth in 1975. Then it was to the Bears' front office where Jim Finks though it necessary to give up a number one draft choice to obtain Mike Phipps a year ago. Then it was to Jack Pardee and finally, Phipps himself. Avellini handled Phipps' summer challenge well and was not at all surprised when Pardee rewarded him with the number one role he had earned the season before. The Bears have won 18 of the 32 games which Avellini has started since the closing weeks of his rookie year. In addition to his skills as a passer and runner, Avellini manages to avoid injury. Phipps is an adequate back-up while Vince Evans has a shot as well as a partial no-cut contract.

GRADE B

RUNNING BACK: Nicknamed 'Sweetness' by his teammates at Jackson State, Walter Payton spelled bitter indigestion to defensive players around the league. In rushing for a total of 1,852 yards, Payton not only mounted a legitimate challenge against Simpson's famous 2003-yard mark, but showed that he truly belongs in the class of runner that includes Sayers and Brown as well. Payton can do it all: run with abandon and balance, block like a FB and catch like a wide receiver. Now entering his fourth season, Walter could challenge all the records by the time he's done. Roland Harper is a fine blocker and excellent inside counterpart to Payton, while last year's rookie, Robin Earl proved he has some talent to go along with his incredible physical attributes. Art Best is a good special teams guy while Johnny Musso has enough talent to give solid performance if needed in place of Payton.

GRADE A+

RECEIVERS: The main question here is: would James Scott, Gregg Latta and Bo Rather be more productive if Avellini was more consistent or is it the other way around? Scott makes tough catches look easy but will drop some of the easy ones. Former WFL star with the Fire, Scott was salvaged from the waiver wire after being cut loose by the Jets. Scott has been sensational during his second stint in Chicago and is Avellini's favorite target. Fully one-third (50) of Avellini's completions were caught by Scott who flashed an impressive 16.3 yard avg. to go along with his sprinter speed. Bo Rather and Brian Baschnagel are main contenders for other wide spot, while Steve Rivera, who failed in his debut with the 49ers, could well turn out to be a tough tight end with fairly good hands who also can block. His superb performance against the Chiefs kept the Bear season from falling apart following that dismal loss in Houston.

GRADE B-

OFFENSIVE LINE: Last two number one picks, Albrecht and Lick anchor young group that has powered Payton's pursuit of the Juice. Noah Jackson and Revie Sorey give Armstrong a pair of quality guards. Dan Neal and Bob Peiffer will duel for the starting center spot now that the latter has undergone knee surgery for the third consecutive off-season. Dan Jiggets and former Charger draftee Fred Dean offer size and some depth but situation would be even better if Lionel Antoine is able to overcome his persistent injury problems. Jeff Sevy could well become a marketable commodity if Finks decides to deal.

GRADE A-

DEFENSIVE LINE: It wasn't just the loss of Wally Chambers that accounted for the Bears rather dismal pass rushing performance that saw the club's ferocious sack total of 49 dwindle to a more cuddly total of 27. Roger Stillwell, another veteran performer was also lost with knee troubles. This caused the Bears to reshuffle their starting lineup almost constantly in an effort to come up with an aggressive enough pass rush. Jim Osborne bounced back from a poor start and helped Bear defense limit opposition to just two TDs in final month of play. Ron Rydlach and Mike Hartenstine did surprisingly well while Jerry Myers could help as well. Billy Newsome is stop-gap DE and club will be looking for quality depth here.

GRADE C-

LINEBACKERS: Doug Buffone expected back for final fling. Still a tough, hard-hitting outside linebacker who plays every down, was key to Pardee's complicated defensive designs. Don Rives, after starting the first nine games of the season, was limited to spot assignments and special teams work throughout the final month of play when Pardee switched Tom Hicks to MLB slot. Waymond Bryant is adequate on the other flank but still has yet to play up to his former first round billing. Raw talent of people like Jerry Muckenstrum and Gary Campbell comprise most of the reserve strength.

GRADE C+

SECONDARY: Bears have one of most underrated groups in the NFC. Garry Fencik and Doug Plank are premier pair of safeties and rank right behind Dallas duo of Harris and Waters as NFC's best deep backs. Alan Ellis continues to improve on the corner and currently is considered one of the most promising pass defenders in either conference. Virgil Livers, noted more for his penchant of returning anything he catches as a kick specialist, could face a strong challenge from Mike Spivey, last year's number two draft pick who has the necessary talent to play either man for man or zone coverages. Craig Clemons, a former number one pick from Iowa who has been lost in the shuffle, figures to be traded.

GRADE A-

KICKING GAME: Bob Thomas still has problems with XPs and will scare you on chipshot field goals as well. A distinct need for more consistency in this area. Bob Parsons is a skilled punter who is especially good at angling ball out of bounds. Steve Schubert, Virgil Livers and Spivey comprise fine return unit.

GRADE C

COACHING: Departure of Pardee came as surprise but Finks feels fortunate enough to have had access to man with Armstrong's talent and experience. Bears are hopeful that Armstrong's CFL headcoaching background — similar to that of Bud Grant's but not nearly as successful — will prove to be equal to the challenge of winning in the NFL. Armstrong insured fairly decent staff with signing of Jerry Frei to handle the offensive line and Ken Meyer as offensive co-ordinator. Buddy Ryan, Armstrong's sidekick and fellow strategist with the Vikings, will handle key defensive tasks.

GRADE C+

FRONT OFFICE: Jim Finks in full control of front office operation and could be on the spot if Armstrong is unable to keep team in contention. Finks is a tough, shrewd negotiator but prone to emotional causes. Could be burned over Chambers affair, and deal for Phipps is heavily questioned now that Bears must pay Browns off with this year's number one pick. Bill Tobin does fine job as pro personnel scout while Jim Palmer is in charge of college scouting program.

GRADE A-

PREDICTION: Bears will be hard-pressed to survive tougher schedule that shows games with five winning teams and three contests against improving teams like San Diego and Atlanta. Improved Lion team will be major stumbling block to Bears intended dethronement of Vikings.

Walter Payton is the game's most exciting runner.

CHICAGO BEARS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Walter Payton	239	1852	5.5	73	14

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Alan Ellis	6	23	3.8	11	0

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Steve Schubert	31	9	291	914	70	1

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
B. Avellini	293	154	52.6	2004	11	18	6.1

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
James Scott	50	809	16.2	72	3

KICK-OFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Brian Baschnagel	23	557	24.2	84	1

PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
Bob Parsons	80	58	40.4	35.1

SCORING	TD	TDR	TDP	PTS
Walter Payton	16	14	2	96

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
64	Albrecht, T.	T-G	6-4/253	2	10/8/54	California	14
	Andrews,J	DE	6-6/250	4	11/7/51	Morgan State	*0
79	Antoine,L	T	6-6/263	6	8/31/50	So. Illinois	*0
7	Avellini,B	QB	6-2/206	4	8/28/53	Maryland	14
84	Baschnagel,B	WR-KR	6-0/193	3	1/8/54	Ohio State	10
25	Best,Art	RB-KR	6-1/205	2	3/18/53	Kent State	14
81	Bradley,C	TE	6-6/235	4	10/13/30	Oregon	*8
50	Bryant,W	LB	6-3/239	5	7/28/52	Tenn. State	13
55	†Buffone,D	LB	6-2/227	12	6/27/44	Louisville	13
59	Campbell,G	LB	6-1/218	2	3/4/52	Colorado	14
60	†Chambers,W	DT-DE	6-6/260	6	5/15/52	East.Kentucky	4
43	Clemons,C	S	5-11/191	7	6/1/49	Iowa	13
63	Dean,F	G	6-3/253	2	3/30/55	Texas Sthrn	*0
39	Earl,R	RB-P	6-5/242	2	3/18/55	Washington	14
48	Ellis,A	CB	5-10/175	6	8/19/51	UCLA	14
8	Evans,V	QB-KR	6-2/216	2	6/14/55	USC	7
45	Fencik,G	S	6-1/192	3	6/11/54	Yale	14
35	Harper,R	RB	6-0/209	4	2/28/53	Louisiana Tc	11
73	Hartenstine,M	DE	6-3/257	4	7/27/53	Penn State	14
54	Hicks,T	LB	6-4/225	3	12/18/52	Illinois	12
65	Jackson,N	G	6-2/273	4	4/14/51	Tampa	14
62	Jiggetts,D	T	6-4/276	3	3/10/54	Harvard	12
88	Latta,G	TE	6-3/230	4	10/13/52	Morgan St.	14
70	Lick,D	T	6-3/268	3	4/26/54	Wisconsin	14
24	Livers,V	CB-KR	5-9/178	4	3/26/52	Western Ky	14
74	Meyers,J	DE	6-4/245	3	2/21/54	No. Illinois	13
58	Muckensturm,J	LB	6-4/226	3	10/13/53	Arkansas St	14
22	Musso,J	RB-KR	5-11/196	4	3/6/50	Alabama	14
52	Neal,D	C-G	6-4/248	6	8/30/49	Kentucky	14
87	Newsome,B	DE	6-5/250	9	3/2/48	Grambling	14
68	Osborne,J	DT	6-3/251	7	9/7/49	Southern	13
86	†Parsons,B	TE-P	6-5/232	7	6/29/50	Penn State	14
34	Payton,W	RB-KR	5-11/205	4	7/25/54	Jackson St.	14
53	Peiffer, Dan	C	6-3/251	4	3/19/51	S.E. Mo. State	14
15	Phipps,Mike	QB	6-3/211	9	11/19/47	Purdue	3
46	Plank,D	S	6-0/201	4	3/4/53	Ohio State	11
80	†Rather,Bo	WR	6-1/189	6	10/7/50	Michigan	13
83	Rivera,S	WR	5-11/190	3	8/5/54	California	*4
57	Rives,D	LB	6-2/231	5	8/30/51	Texas Tech	14
51	Rogers,Mel	LB	6-2/230	6	4/23/47	Florida A&M	5
76	Rydalch,RonDT	DT	6-4/257	4	1/1/52	Utah	14
44	Schmidt,T	CB-S	6-0/176	5	5/28/52	Ball State	10
85	Schubert,S	WR-KR	5-10/188	5	3/15/51	Massachusetts	13
89	Scott,J	WR-KR	6-1/191	3	3/28/52	Henderson J.C.	14
75	Sevy,Jeff	DE-G	6-5/261	4	10/24/50	California	12
69	Sorey,Revie	G	6-2/259	4	9/10/53	Illinois	14
47	Spivey,Mike	CB-KR	6-0/194	2	3/10/54	Colorado	14
71	Stillwell,R	DE	6-6/250	4	11/17/51	Stanford	5
16	Thomas,B	K	5-10/174	4	8/7/52	Notre Dame	14
23	Walterscheid,L	S-KR	5-11/185	2	9/13/54	So.Utah State	14

†Option playout; subject to developments.
*Andrews last active with Miami, 1976; Antoine last active with Chicago in '76; Bradley played 1 game with San Diego, 7 with Chicago; Rivera played 1 game with San Francisco, 3 with Chicago; Dean was active for 4 games but did not play.

GREEN BAY PACKERS

1978 Schedule		
9/3	at Detroit	1:00
9/10	NW ORL(Milw)	1:00
9/17	OAKLAND	1:00
9/24	at San Diego	1:00
10/1	DET.(Milw)	1:00
10/8	CHICAGO	1:00
10/15	STTLE(Milw)	1:00
10/22	at Minnesota	1:00
10/29	TAMPA BAY	1:00
11/5	at Phila.	1:00
11/12	DAL. (Milw)	1:00
11/19	at Denver	2:00
11/26	MINNESOTA	1:00
12/3	at Tampa Bay	1:00
12/10	at Chicago	1:00
12/17	at Los Angeles	1:00

1977 Results		
9/18	at N. O. (-7)	24-20
9/25	HOUSTON (-3)	10-16
10/2	at Minn. (-12)	7-19
10/9	CINN. (-9)	7-17
10/16	at Detroit (-7)	6-10
10/23	at T. B. (+3)	13-0
10/30	CHI. (-4½)	0-26
11/6	at K. C. (-5)	10-20
11/13	L. A. (-10½)	6-24
11/21	at Wash. (-11)	9-10
11/27	MINN. (-7)	6-13
12/4	DETROIT (+1)	10-9
12/11	at Chi. (-10½)	10-21
12/18	S. F. (+2½)	16-14

Bart Starr can be forgiven if he prefers to forget about the 1977 season. Other than the fact that he was enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame early in the summer, the rest of the year seemed to hold little more than frustration for the Packer mentor.

The Packers were virtually inept on offense — Green Bay finished next to last in both phases of overall ball control — and Starr's problems seem compounded by the fact that Lyn Dickey has done nothing to disprove his reputation for being injury prone.

Defensively the team showed some spark down the stretch of the bitterly disappointing 4-10 campaign, and the Packers, even with rookie David Whitehurst at the helm, finished on an upbeat note with wins against the Lions and the Forty Niners. In fact, the Packer defense turned in the same kind of performance against the Vikings and the Redskins, but fell victim to general offensive breakdowns that caused the team to suffer a pair of additional defeats by the combined total of just eight points.

One important plus factor not to be overlooked in the gradual rebuilding of the Packers is the fact that Starr's squad underwent considerable change. Twenty new players were added to the roster including a total of 11 draft choices. In the past three seasons, Green Bay has added 38 different players to its final roster and Starr seems confident that his personnel department will continue to provide him with adequate talent. Along that line, the Packers came away with a decisive advantage in their trade with Oakland in which former regular Mike McCoy was dispatched for a number one pick this year. Herb McMath, a possible linebacking prospect, and a number two pick next season.

Despite early rumblings of discontent, the Packer faithful seem disposed to giving Starr at least another season to show substantial progress in the won-loss column. To do so, the Packers will have to find a creditable offensive punch. Last year the Packers were able to score more than two touchdowns on just two occasions, and Green Bay was limited to nine or less points in exactly half its games.

QUARTERBACK: Bart Starr has tough decision to make. If Lynn Dickey is unable to come back from his broken leg and assorted other ailments, Starr will have to decide on whether or not David Whitehurst showed enough to forestall the Packers from utilizing one of their two first round selections to pick a quarterback. Whitehurst, an unheralded QB who was a late round afterthought because his college team (Furman) favored a veer attack, took over from Dickey and played surprisingly well. Whitehurst completed 47.6% of his passes but did throw seven interceptions against just one TD. Dickey, even when he was healthy, didn't fare all that well. While he had a decent completion percentage, the former Oiler had the highest interception ratio of all NFC passers and wound up being fleeced 14 times.

GRADE C-

RUNNING BACK: Packer running game was one of least productive attacks in the league. Club is in dire need of quality big back who can get tough yardage and block like Mac Arthur Lane did when Brockington was at the apex of his career. Barty Smith continues to disappoint and was again plagued with injuries. Willard Harrell is a big play performer and has ability to score from anywhere on the field. Nate Simpson and Terdell Middleton have better than average potential but Eric Torkelson is barely adequate journeyman type.

GRADE D

RECEIVERS: Another pressing need. Steve Odom and Ollie Smith have excellent blend of speed and moves but suffer from inadequate passing attack. Smith had impressive 16.2 average on 22 receptions while Odom nabbed a total of 27 balls for an even more impressive mark of 20.3 per catch. Only Mel Gray had a better NFC average than Odom. Rick McGeorge is an adequate TE and club could use more help here. Barty Smith was leading receiver but most of his 37 catches did little more than maintain field position.

GRADE C+

OFFENSIVE LINE: Once again the Packer offensive line was ravaged by injuries and became a free agent haven. Three of last year's starters began the season elsewhere. Larry McCarren is a fair center while Dennis Havig and Mel Jackson are stop gap performers at guard. Mark Koncar is a premium tackle and showed considerable progress. Dick Himes was slowed by injuries. Team has inadequate depth and Bob Kowalowski, the former Lion and Brown cast-off, seems to be at the end of the line. Starr is hopeful that the injured reserve list will provide him at least one young quality performer from among the likes of Gerald Skinner — the Patriots fourth round choice from Arkansas who was a victim of Howard Slusher's hold out tactics — Rick Scribner, (the Pack's own third round choice) and Rell Tipton.

GRADE D+

DEFENSIVE LINE: Strength of the defense. Rebuilt line was spurred by addition of top flight prospects Mike Butler and Ezra Johnson. Butler played up to first round expectations and made several all-rookie squads. Former KU All-America has superb quickness and fine strength to go along with excellent size and will be one of the game's better linemen if he can stay healthy. Johnson is still regarded as a rather raw talent but seems to have the potential that merited his surprise first round selection. Bob Barter, a former high draft pick of the Steelers who was dealt to the Pack after opting for the WFL, was impressive at times while Dave Roller and Dave Pureifoy proved to be tough against the run. Clarence Williams reportedly is unhappy about being on the bench and would like to be traded.

GRADE C+

LINEBACKERS: Season started out all wrong for Fred Carr and Starr was critical of his training camp attitude. Carr's regular season performance was not up to his usual pro-bowl standards. Jim Carter is barely adequate in the middle and the team really missed Gary Weaver. The latter, another former Raider, tore up a knee and also played out his option. The Packers can ill afford to lose the services of their defensive MVP of two years ago. Tom Toner improved with experience.

GRADE C-

SECONDARY: Despite 58% completion mark of opposing passers it was actually tough to throw against the Packer secondary that ranked fifth in overall NFC pass defense. M.C. McCoy did find job at RCB and shared club interception lead of four with Steve Luck. Willie Buchanon slipped somewhat on the other side and seems to have

lost something due to series of injuries. Steve Luke and Steve Wagner ensure solid play at the SS spot while FS Johnnie Gray — like Wagner, a fine FA pick — comes up with more than his share of big plays.

GRADE B

KICKING GAME: Chester Marcol, still bothered by persistent leg problems, had a rather inconsistent season and finished with a 13-of-21 FG mark. If Chester can revert to past form, Packer offense will be improved. Marcol made a couple of clutch kicks, but he also missed more than he should have. Dave Beverly is an average punter who has a tendency to shank some under pressure. Willard Harrell, Steve Odom and Aundra Thompson give Packers potent return game that is dangerous from any spot on the field.

GRADE B

COACHING: Packers improved over latter half of the season but still need considerable offensive direction. Starr expects continued improvement on defensive side of the ball and has top notch assistants in Dave Hanner and Dick LeBeau. Bill Curry also did a fine job in his pro coaching debut and was credited by Starr with improving play of patched up offensive line.

GRADE C

FRONT OFFICE: Starr intends to hold onto dual role of Head Coach and General Manager and his decision to dump personnel ace Doug Haffner was considered a distinct shock throughout the rest of league. Haffner, who earned his spurs with the Bengals, did a fine job in his two year tenure in which the Packers added 16 new players via the draft. Dick Corrick takes over and will have tough assignment. Majority opinion around the NFL establishment insists that coaching and General managership must be divided. Starr hopes he is exception to rule.

GRADE C

PREDICTION: If Starr can generate any offensive punch at all, then Packers figure to be improved because of growing competitiveness of young, aggressive defense. Schedule will be a distinct hindrance in that the Packers must play eight games against teams with winning records, including Dallas, Denver, Los Angeles, and Oakland. Club may be improved somewhat but it is doubtful that the final standings will reflect just how much. Green Bay figures to duel Tampa Bay for the basement rights in the NFC Central Division race.

The Green Bay snow doesn't bother Willard Harrell.

GREEN BAY PACKERS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Barty Smith	166	554	3.3	11	2
INTERCEPTIONS	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**LG**	**TD**
Steve Luke	4	9	2.3	7	0
M.C. McCoy	4	2	0.5	2	0
PUNT RETURNS	**NO**	**FC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**LG**	**TD**
Willard Harrell	28	10	253	9.0	75	1

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
Lynn Dickey	220	113	51.4	1346	5	14	6.4
RECEIVING	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**LG**	**TD**
Horace King	40	238	6.0	30	0
KICK-OFF RETURNS	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**LG**	**TD**
Steve Odom	23	468	20.3	37	0
PUNTING	**NO**	**LG**	**AVG**	**NET AVG**
David Beverly	85	59	39.9	33.7
SCORING	**XP**	**XPA**	**FG**	**FGA**	**PTS**
Chester Marcol	11	14	13	21	50

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
88	Askson,B.	TE	6-2/225	6	12/18/45	Tex.Southern	14
70	Barber,R.	DE	6-3/240	3	12/26/51	Grambling	14
11	Beverly,D.	P	6-2/180	5	8/18/50	Auburn	14
	Brown,B.	DT	6-5/280	13	2/23/40	Arkansas AM&N	*0
28	Buchanon,W.	CB	6-0/190	7	11/4/50	S.Diego St.	14
77	Butler,M.	DE	6-5/265	2	4/4/54	Kansas	14
53	Carr,F.	LB	6-5/240	11	8/19/46	Tex.-El Paso	14
50	Carter,J.	LB	6-3/245	9	10/18/48	Minnesota	14
	Craig,R.	WR	6-1/190	2	6/20/53	Arkansas	*9
31	Culbreath,J.	RB	6-0/210	2	10/21/52	Oklahoma	13
10	Dickey,L.	QB	6-4/220	8	10/19/49	Kansas City	9
12	Dowling,B.	QB	6-2/200	4	4/1/47	Yale	5
57	Gofourth,D.	C	6-3/260	2	3/20/55	Okla. St.	14
24	Gray,J.	S	5-11/185	4	12/18/53	Cal.St.-Fltn	14
	Groce,R.	RB	6-2/230	2	7/1/54	Macalester	*0
51	Gueno,J.	LB	6-2/220	3	1/15/54	Tulane	14
58	Hansen,D.	LB	6-2/228	12	8-20-44	Illinois	13
40	Harrell,W.	RB	5-9/182	4	9/16/52	Pacific	13
82	Hartwig,K.	WR	6-0/186	2	12/10/53	Arizona	4
62	Havig,D.	G	6-3/255	8	5/6/49	Colorado	9
72	Himes,D.	T	6-4/260	11	5/25/46	Ohio St.	14
71	Jackson,M.	G	6-1/267	4	5/5/54	USC	14
78	Johnson,E.	DE	6-4/240	2	10/2/55	Morris Brn	14
60	Knutson,S.	G	6-3/254	4	10/5/51	USC	14
68	Koch,G.	T	6-4/265	2	6/14/55	Arkansas	14
79	Koncar,M.	T	6-5/268	3	5/5/53	Colorado	13
67	Kowalkowski,B.	G	6-3/245	13	11/5/43	Virginia	9
46	Luke,S.	S	6-2/205	4	9/4/53	Ohio St.	14
13	Marcol,C.	K	6-0/190	7	10/24/49	Hillsdale	14
54	McCarren,L	C	6-3/248	6	11/9/51	Illinois	14
29	McCoy,M.C.	DB	5-11/183	3	8/16/53	Colorado	14
81	McGeorge,R.	TE	6-4/230	9	9/14/48	Elon	14
61	McMath,H.	DT	6-4/250	3	9/6/54	Morninnside	8
34	Middleton,T.	RB	6-0/195	2	4/8/55	Memphis	14
37	Moresco,T.	DB	5-11/176	2	10/3/54	Syracuse	14
84	Odom,S.	WR	5-8/174	5	9/5/52	Utah	14
75	Pureifory,D.	DT	6-1/255	7	7/12/49	E.Mich.	12
23	Randolph,T.	DB	6-0/184	2	7/17/55	Amer.Intl	14
74	Roller,D.	DT	6-2/270	5	10/28/49	Kentucky	13
48	Simpson,N.	RB	5-11/190	2	11/30/54	Tenn.St.	12
33	Smith,B.	RB	6-4/240	5	3/23/52	Richmond	14
89	Smith,O.	WR	6-3/200	5	3/8/49	Tenn.St.	12
43	Thompson,A.	WR	6-0/186	2	1/2/53	E.Texas	14
59	Toner,T.	LB	6-3/235	6	1/25/50	Idaho St.	14
26	Torkelson,E.	RB	6-2/194	5	3/3/52	Connecticut	14
18	Vataha,R.	WR	5-10/170	8	12/4/48	Stanford	6
21	Wagner,S.	DB	6-2/208	3	4/18/54	Wisconsin	14
52	†Weaver,G.	LB	6-1/225	6	3/13/49	Fresno St.	5
17	Whitehurst,D.	QB	6-2/204	2	4/27/55	Furman	7
83	Williams,C.	DE	6-5/255	9	9/3/46	Prairie View	14

*Brown last active with Cincinnati in 1976; Craig played 5 games with Cleveland and 4 with Buffalo in 1977; Groce last active in Minnesota in 1976.

†Option playout; subject to developments.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

1978 Schedule		
9/2	GIANTS(Sat)	8:00
9/9	DETROIT(Sat)	8:00
9/17	at Minnesota	1:00
9/24	ATLANTA	4:00
10/1	MINNESOTA	1:00
10/8	at Kansas City	1:00
10/15	at N.Y. Giants	1:00
10/22	CHICAGO	1:00
10/29	at Green Bay	1:00
11/5	at Los Ang.	1:00
11/12	at Detroit	1:00
11/19	BUFFALO	1:00
11/26	at Chicago	1:00
12/3	GREEN BAY	1:00
12/10	at San Fran.	1:00
12/17	NEW ORL.	1:00

1977 Results		
9/18	at Phila. (-14)	3-13
9/24	MINN. (-14)	3-9
10/2	at Dallas (-23)	7-23
10/9	WASH. (-11)	0-10
10/16	at Seattle (-2)	23-30
10/23	G. B. (-3)	0-13
10/30	at S. F. (-16)	10-20
11/6	at L. A. (-21)	0-31
11/13	GIANTS (-6)	0-10
11/20	at Detroit (-14)	7-16
11/27	ATLANTA (-9)	0-17
12/4	CHICAGO (-14)	0-10
12/11	at N. O. (-11½)	33-14
12/18	ST. LOUIS (-6½)	17-7

It figures. After losing their first 26 regular season games, the Buccaneers, seemingly recipients of a unique brand of NFL religion with closing wins over the Saints and the Cardinals, are looking forward to 1978.

John McKay, now in the third year of his plan to 'take money and run' has reshuffled his personnel department and will be making all the decisions (good and bad) now that Ron Wolf's voice of moderation has been stilled.

McKay spent most of the off-season figuring on what to do with the number one pick in the draft. No doubt he will have opted for a trade, probably to the Rams for the likes of Greg Horton, Donnie Hickman, the Rev. Charles Young (the former all-pro TE who had a disappointing time of it with the Rams) and a trio of high draft picks.

If so, the Bucs will have made considerable progress in strengthening an offensive line that has been a constant weakness. The kind of wholesale upgrading that would result from such a proposal will enable the club's offense to approach the respectability of the Tampa defense that was so highly regarded around several NFL arenas.

While the offense could generate two or more scores in just three of fourteen games (the Bucs have been blanked 11 times in two seasons), the defense played a consistent brand of surprisingly competitive football.

Paced by the Selmons, Dave Pear and unheralded performers such as David Lewis and Cedric Brown, the Tampa Bay defense held opponents to 17 or less points on ten different occasions. Take a bow Abe Gibron.

Consequently, the Bucs figure to progress rather rapidly now that the quarterback picture seems more settled and a mark of five or six wins should not constitute an unattainable goal.

QUARTERBACK: It has been less than fun being a QB for this team, and it can even be dangerous to one's health. Something like 15 switches in personnel at this key spot over the past two seasons make many of the team's offensive problems traceable to right here. Gary Huff, who performed splendidly against the Saints and the Cardinals to spark Tampa's modest season ending winning streak, holds a slight edge as the incumbent over Mike Boryla. The latter, imported cheaply because of the Eagles mishandling of his contract, fell victim to the injury plague and missed the regular season with a torn up knee. With both Huff and Boryla healthy, McKay feels sure that his quarterbacking problems will be resolved.

GRADE C+

RUNNING BACK: Last year's top pick in the draft, Ricky Bell, found out that the blocking at USC was probably twice as good as in Tampa and its no surprise that he wound up with a paltry total (compared to Dorsett's 1,000 yard status with Dallas) of 436 yards and a rather dismal average of 2.9 yards per carry. No doubt Bell can cite chapter and verse on how difficult it is to run the football in the NFL when there is a severe shortage of talent in the offensive line. Anthony Davis, another of McKay's favored Trojans, was disappointing in just about every area and is likely to be dealt if a taker (payer) can be found for his services. Jimmy Du Bose and Ed Williams did nearly as well at considerably less cost. Louis Carter could surprise if he can stay healthy.

GRADE C+

OFFENSIVE LINE: Play of this unit improved over last year's performance, but still far from typical NFL standards. Steve Wilson switched to center and gave decent account. Former Raiders Medlin and Winans finished as the starting guards but would be replaced by Hickman and possible draftees. Daryl Carlton, the former Dolphin first round pick who has been beset by personal problems as well as excess poundage, had a difficult time of it while Dave Reavis was a shade more effective at the other tackle spot. Calvin Harper, a free agent find of Wolf's, could surprise if healthy.

GRADE D

RECEIVERS: Morris Owens earned pro bowl mention with fine season and was team's most productive player. Owens, a former reject of the Dolphins, finished with 34 catches for 655 yards, a 19.3 average and three scores. A graduate of Frank Kush's 'receiving' school at ASU, Owens has excellent speed and good moves to go along with fine hands. He will also make an attempt to fulfull his blocking assignments. Issac Haggins has the same kind of speed but not nearly as many accompanying attributes. J. K. McKay has been handicapped by injuries and the burden of being the coach's son. TE was almost equal to QB spot in terms of physical danger. Bob Moore sidelined again. Dana Nafziger and Jack Novak (who?) are free agent journeyman types.

GRADE D+

DEFENSIVE LINE: Bucs have top flight line and opposing teams found it difficult to sustain running game against Abe Gibron's 3-4 alignments. Leroy Selmon had a superb season and is already being labeled as premier player whose forte is consistency. Buck Buchanan, the former Chief great who will be coaching the Brown's defensive line, feels Selmon could be one of the all time greats despite his lack of super size. Dave Pear, the club's MVP in 1976, is one tough nose guard who plays all out on every down. Council Rudolph, the former Cardinal played beyond his talents and had some outstanding performances in rushing the passer. Had an especially good game against Ron Yary. Greg Johnson could be an interesting prospect while Bill Kollar, a disappointment as a top draft pick of the Bengals, just a suspect.

GRADE A-

LINEBACKERS: Keystone of the Bucs aggressive defense. Number two pick Dave Lewis had fine debut and showed the USC label doesn't always disappoint. Dewey Selmon made move to ILB with minimum of difficulty. Richard Wood showed the Jets they may have made a mistake. Cecil Johnson, another free agent pick-up, showed promise, while Paul Harris, cut loose by the Steelers, has fine atheltic skill and penchant for delivering hard-hitting blow. Rik Bonness, another former Raider could challenge here as well. Strongest area of the defense with good depth.

GRADE A-

SECONDARY: Tampa Bay had moderately effective pass coverage and wound up with respectable total of 23 interceptions. Jerris White and Mike Washington, a pair of high draft choices cut by the Dolphins and the Colts, gave Bucs adequate strength on the corner. Mark Cotney tough hitter at SS and Cedric Brown, who couldn't crack intimidating Raider secondary, developed into surprising find at FS. Danny Reece and Curtis Jordan are the main reserves.

GRADE C

KICKING GAME: Near disaster area that must be upgraded considerably. Dave Green, former Bengal, wound up doing both jobs by default and his punting suffered. Anthony Davis was a major disappointment and hardly a factor in team's return game. Who is Larry Swider? Issac Haggins has speed to burn and Reece did a fine job in returning punts.

GRADE D-

COACHING: John McKay ought not to get carried away by the club's long awaited winning streak. This team is poorly coached from an offensive standpoint and has been held scoreless more often than not. Defensively, the Bucs are organized and thoroughly drilled. Gibron is stern task-master and should receive considerable credit along with linebacker coach Tom Bass.

GRADE C-

FRONT OFFICE: Curious turn of events had Ron Wolf depart for possible return to Oakland. McKay wanted to run entire show and owner Hugh Culverhouse finally concurred. Could be a costly error. Fortunately for McKay, Ken Herock still on scene as college scout with Dick Voris handling pro personnel evaluation. If McKay tries to do it all, this decision could come back to haunt him no matter how many checks he cashes. Recent results underline fact that coaching and GM spot should not be filled by one person alone.

GRADE D

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Ricky Bell	148	436	2.9	20	1

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Mike Washington	5	71	14.2	45	1

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Danny Reece	31	2	274	8.8	36	0

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
Gary Huff	138	67	48.6	889	3	13	9.4

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Morris Owens	34	655	19.3	67	3

KICK-OFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Isaac Haggins	21	493	23.5	41	0

PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
Dave Green	98	70	40.3	33.9

SCORING	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Alan Leavitt	5	5	5	10	20

John McKay enters '78 with a two-game win skein.

PREDICTION: The same defense that kept the Bucs at a fairly consistent level of competitiveness throughout the second half of the season, should enable club to win as many as five or six games provided offense increases scoring potential. Tampa tabbed last in weak NFC Central, but could still wind up playing spoiler role against likes of Lions and Bears. Home and home series with Giants will help as will return engagement with the Saints.

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
42	Bell, Ricky	RB	6-2/220	2	4/8/55	USC	11
17	Blount, Jeb	QB	6-3/200	2	7/12/54	Tulsa	5
53	Bonness, Rik	LB	6-3/220	3	3/20/54	Nebraska	13
10	Boryla, Mike	QB	6-3/200	4	3/6/51	Stanford	*0
34	Brown, Cedric	S	6-1/190	2	5/6/54	Kent State	14
70	Carlton, Darryl	T	6-6/270	4	6/24/53	Tampa	14
66	Carter, B.	T	6-4/250	2	6/3/55	Nev.-Las Vegas	13
32	Carter, Louis	RB	5-11/209	4	2/6/53	Maryland	14
33	Cotney, Mark	S	6-0/205	4	6/26/51	Cameron St.	14
28	Davis, Anthony	RB	5-10/190	2	9/8/52	USC	11
35	DuBose, Jimmy	RB	5-11/215	3	10/25/54	Florida	13
4	Green, Dave	P	6-0/205	6	9/21/49	Ohio	14
81	Hagins, Isaac	WR	5-9/180	2	3/2/54	Southern	13
73	Hannah, Charlie	DE	6-5/220	2	7/26/55	Alabama	9
52	Harris, Paul	LB	6-3/215	2	12/19/54	Alabama	14
14	Hedberg, Randy	QB	6-3/200	2	12/27/54	Minot State	7
19	Huff, Gary	QB	6-1/195	6	4/27/51	Florida St.	8
56	Johnson, Cecil	LB	6-2/220	2	8/19/55	Pittsburgh	13
72	Johnson, Greg	DE	6-4/240	2	12/3/53	Florida St.	*5
65	Johnson, Randy	G	6-2/225	2	1/2/53	Georgia	12
25	Jordan, Curtis	CB-S	6-2/185	3	1/25/53	Texas Tech	12
77	Kollar, Bill	DT	6-4/256	5	11/12/52	Montana St.	14
9	Leavitt, Allan	P-K	5-11/180	2	10/22/55	Georgia	8
59	Lemon, Mike	LB	6-2/220	4	2/26/51	Kansas	14
57	Lewis, David	LB	6-4/230	2	10/15/54	USC	14
89	McKay, John	WR	5-11/185	3	3/28/53	USC	14
68	Medlin, Dan	G	6-4/255	5	10/12/49	N. C. State	14
88	Moore, Bob	TE	6-3/225	8	2/12/49	Stanford	3
87	Mucker, Larry	WR	5-11/190	2	12/15/54	Arizona St.	14
83	Natziger, D.	TE	6-1/220	2	10/26/53	Cal. Poly SLO	14
80	Novak, Jack	TE	6-5/240	4	6/6/53	Wisconsin	14
	O Donoghue, N.	P-K	6-6/205	2	1/18/53	Auburn	5
85	Owens, Morris	WR	6-0/190	4	2/14/53	Arizona St.	14
76	Pear, Dave	DT	6-2/250	4	6/1/53	Washington	14
23	Ragsdale, Geo.	DB	5-11/185	2	12/4/53	No. Car. A&T	9
75	Reavis, Dave	T-G	6-5/250	4	6/19/50	Arkansas	14
46	Reece, Danny	CB-S	5-11/190	3	1/28/55	USC	14
64	Robinson, Glenn	DE	6-6/245	4	10/20/51	Okla. St.	14
78	Rudolph, Council	DE	6-4/255	7	1/18/50	Kentucky St.	14
51	Ryczek, Dan	C	6-3/250	6	8/24/49	Virginia	14
61	Selmon, Dewey	LB	6-1/250	3	11/19/53	Oklahoma	14
63	Selmon, Lee Roy	DE	6-3/260	3	10/20/54	Oklahoma	14
	Smith, Tody	DE	6-5/250	6	12/24/48	USC	*0
	Tinker, Gerald	WR	5-9/170	4	11/19/51	Kent State	*0
82	Waddell, Charles	TE	6-5/230	2	2/18/53	UNC	*0
40	Washington, M.	CB	6-3/190	3	1/7/53	Alabama	14
45	White, Jeris	CB	5-11/180	5	9/3/52	Hawaii	14
79	Wilson, Steve	G	6-3/265	3	5/19/54	Georgia	14
62	Winans, Jeff	T-G	6-5/265	5	10/12/51	USC	11
54	Wood, Richard	LB	6-2/215	4	5/31/53	USC	14

*Boryla and Smith missed entire '77 season due to injuries; Waddell was active for 4 games but did not play; Tinker was last active with Green Bay, 1976; Johnson played 2 games for Baltimore in '77.

1977 NFL TEAM STATS

AFC, NFC, AND NFL SUMMARY

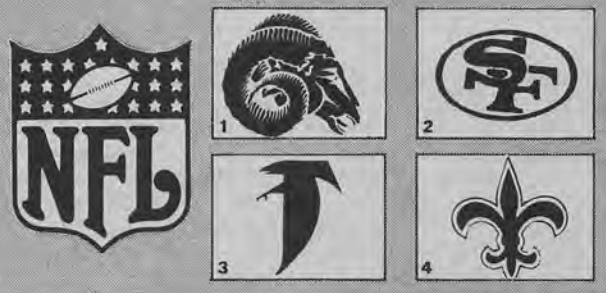
	AFC Offense Total	AFC Offense Average	AFC Defense Total	AFC Defense Average	NFC Offense Total	NFC Offense Average	NFC Defense Total	NFC Defense Average	NFL Total	NFL Average
First Downs	3479	248.5	3432	245.1	3141	224.4	3188	227.7	6620	236.4
Rushing	1586	113.3	1531	109.4	1506	107.6	1561	111.5	3092	110.4
Passing	1606	114.7	1609	114.9	1402	100.1	1399	99.9	3008	107.4
Penalty	287	20.5	292	20.9	233	16.6	228	16.3	520	18.6
Rushes	7272	519.4	7186	513.3	7378	527.0	7464	533.1	14,650	523.2
Net Yds. Gained	28,817	2058.4	28,003	2000.2	27,583	1970.2	28,397	2028.4	56,400	2014.3
Avg. Gain	—	4.0	—	3.9	—	3.7	—	3.8	—	3.8
Avg. Yds. per Game	—	147.0	—	142.9	—	140.7	—	144.9		
Passes Attempted	5046	360.4	5077	362.6	4740	338.6	4709	336.4	9786	349.5
Completed	2629	187.8	2652	189.4	2393	170.9	2370	169.3	5022	179.4
% Completed	—	52.1	—	52.2	—	50.5	—	50.3	—	51.3
Total Yds. Gained	33,882	2420.1	33,537	2395.5	29,712	2122.3	30,057	2146.9	63,594	2271.2
Passer Tackled	420	30.0	445	31.8	535	38.2	510	36.4	955	34.1
Yds. Lost	3510	250.7	3729	266.4	4464	318.9	4245	303.2	7974	284.8
Net Yds. Gained	30,372	2169.4	29,808	2129.1	25,248	1803.4	25,812	1843.7	55,620	1986.4
Avg. Yds. per Game	—	155.0	—	152.1	—	128.8	—	131.7		
Net Yds. per Pass Play	—	5.56	—	5.40	—	4.79	—	4.95	—	5.18
Yds. Gained per Comp.	—	12.89	—	12.65	—	12.42	—	12.68	—	12.66
Combined Net Yds. Gained	59,189	4227.8	57,811	4129.4	52,831	3773.6	54,209	3872.1	112,020	4000.7
% Total Yds., Rushing	—	48.69	—	48.44	—	52.21	—	52.38	—	50.35
% Total Yds., Passing	—	51.31	—	51.56	—	47.79	—	47.62	—	49.65
Avg. Yds. per Game	—	302.0	—	295.0	—	269.5	—	276.6		
Ball Control Plays	12,738	909.9	12,708	907.7	12,653	903.8	12,683	905.9	25,391	906.8
Avg. Yds. per Play	—	4.6	—	4.5	—	4.2	—	4.3	—	4.4
Interceptions	310	22.1	300	21.4	252	18.0	262	18.7	562	20.1
Yds. Returned	4569	326.4	4292	306.6	3336	238.3	3613	258.1	7905	282.3
Returned for TD	15	1.1	13	0.9	13	0.9	15	1.1	28	1.0
Punts	1029	73.5	1035	73.9	1238	88.4	1232	88.0	2267	81.0
Yds. Punted	39,471	2819.4	40,039	2859.9	47,619	3401.4	47,051	3360.8	87,090	3110.4
Avg. Yds. per Punt	—	38.4	—	38.7	—	38.5	—	38.2	—	38.4
Punt Returns	565	40.4	561	40.1	682	48.7	686	49.0	1247	44.5
Yds. Returned	5564	397.4	5692	406.6	5438	388.4	5310	379.3	11,002	392.9
Avg. Yds. per Return	—	9.8	—	10.1	—	8.0	—	7.7	—	8.8
Returned for TD	6	0.4	5	0.4	4	0.3	5	0.4	10	0.4
Kickoff Returns	692	49.4	719	51.4	682	48.7	655	46.8	1374	49.1
Yds. Returned	14,759	1054.2	15,298	1092.7	14,637	1045.5	14,098	1007.0	29,396	1049.9
Avg. Yds. per Return	—	21.3	—	21.3	—	21.5	—	21.5	—	21.4
Returned for TD	5	0.4	5	0.4	6	0.4	6	0.4	11	0.4
Penalties	1274	91.0	1257	89.8	1267	90.5	1284	91.7	2541	90.8
Yds. Penalized	10,875	776.8	10,629	759.2	10,922	780.1	11,168	797.7	21,797	778.5
Fumbles	415	29.6	421	30.1	400	28.6	394	28.1	815	29.1
Lost	236	16.9	233	16.6	198	14.1	201	14.4	434	15.5
Out of Bounds	16	1.1	14	1.0	16	1.1	18	1.3	32	1.1
Own Rec. for TD	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1	1	0.1	1	0.04
Opp. Rec.	233	16.6	236	16.9	200	14.3	197	14.1	433*	15.5
Opp. Rec. for TD	10	0.7	9	0.6	7	0.5	8	0.6	17	0.6
Total Points Scored	3680	262.9	3528	252.0	3053	218.1	3205	228.9	6733	240.5
Total TDs	446	31.9	428	30.6	369	26.4	387	27.6	815	29.1
TDs Rushing	182	13.0	182	13.0	170	12.1	170	12.1	352	12.6
TDs Passing	225	16.1	209	14.9	163	11.6	179	12.8	388	13.9
TDs on Ret. and Rec.	39	2.8	37	2.6	36	2.6	38	2.7	75	2.7
Extra Points	406	29.0	385	27.5	335	23.9	356	25.4	741	26.5
Safeties	8	0.6	7	0.5	3	0.2	4	0.3	11	0.4
Field Goals Made	194	13.9	187	13.4	166	11.9	173	12.4	360	12.9
Field Goals Attempted	306	21.9	300	21.4	312	22.3	318	22.7	618	22.1
% Successful	—	63.4	—	62.3	—	53.2	—	54.4	—	58.3

*Fumbled through end zone, ball awarded to opponents: St. Louis 1.

By George, Rams Finally Have It All

NFC WEST

1978 PREDICTED FINISH



FINAL 1977 NFL TEAM STANDINGS

	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Op
Los Angeles	10	4	0	.714	302	146
Atlanta	7	7	0	.500	179	129
San Francisco	5	9	0	.357	220	260
New Orleans	3	11	0	.214	232	336

NFC Playoffs
Dallas 37, Chicago 7
Minnesota 14, Los Angeles 7

The Rams seem headed for their sixth consecutive divisional title. Unless, however, George Allen succeeds where Chuck Knox failed by leading one of the game's most talented aggregations to more than a single post-season triumph, Carroll Rosenbloom is going to be bitterly disappointed.

First the Rams will have to win their division on more than just paper. Considering the extent of Joe Thomas' stunning personnel blitz which should revitalize the fortunes of the Forty-Niners rather rapidly, as well as the continued improvement of the Falcons under the stewardship of Leeman Bennett, Allen's return to Los Angeles is not apt to result in the Ram walk-away envisioned by most observers in the immediate aftermath of his appointment.

The New Orleans Saints, like the Rams and the Forty-Niners, will have a new head coach as well. Dick Nolan, in becoming the sixth Saint coach since 1970, inherits a team with a modicum of talent and the worst most difficult schedule in the division.

PLAYER PERSONNEL UPDATE

RAMS: George Allen, enjoying fully the satisfaction of utilizing a first round draft choice for the first time since he left Los Angeles, is happy to have to solve the population problem in the Rams backfield because of the addition of Elvis Peacock, the fleet-footed whippet from Oklahoma. The club added some quality depth via the second round selection of Stan Johnson, a DT from Tennessee State and T Ronnie Smith, another fine WR prospect with speed schooled in the image of past San Diego State receivers. Frank Corral, a third round selection from nearby UCLA (unless the Rams move to Anaheim), should upgrade the team's punting game which has been such a sore spot in the past.

FORTY-NINERS: Joe Thomas, who has a habit of making blockbuster deals, started off in superb fashion with the O.J. Simpson trade. This was quickly followed by the deal which sent Delvin Williams to the Dolphins in exchange for two potential starters, defensive back Vern Roberson and wide-receiver/kick-returner Fred Solomon. The Forty-Niners also received a number one draft pick whom Thomas converted into another potential starter, MLB Dan Bunz, a hard-hitting tackler from Cal State Long Beach. Having given up a number of premium draft choices to Buffalo in exchange for Simpson, Thomas spent considerable time in ensuring that the Niners would not sit idle through the remainder of the early rounds. The Gold Rush gang was broken up when Thomas exiled DE Tommy Hart to the Bears for a second round pick, who would eventually become Walt Downing, a highly regarded prospect from Michigan. Additional help for this area comes in the talented person of Notre Dame's underrated guard Ernie Hughes, who will be joining Irish teammate Ken MacAfee, the multi-talented TE whom Thomas felt was the premier player in the draft. In other deals, Thomas sent Dave Washington and Ralph McGill to the Lions and the Saints where they will rejoin Monte Clark and Dick Nolan. Also dispatched was TE Tom Mitchell who went to the Redskins in exchange for Larry Jones, another explosive return specialist who doubles effectively as a wide receiver. In summary, Thomas exchanged a total of five of last year's starters for the services of four proven veterans as well as three potential regulars obtained in the draft. Add to that the first round selection of MacAfee as well as the box office appear of O.J. Simpson and it is easy to understand the Rams concern.

SAINTS: Dick Nolan, knowing how much the Saints needed offensive line help, still couldn't resist the temptation to select Florida's incredibly gifted speedster, Wesley Chandler with the third overall pick in the draft. Fortunately, Nolan was able to obtain a quality offensive tackle via the club's second round choice of James Taylor from Missouri. Both of these players should wind up instant starters. Third round choice Barry Bennett is a sleeper DT candidate from Conordia College in Minnesota whose selection is rather surprising considering the overall strength of the Saints's defensive line which includes last years top picks, Joe Campbell and Mike Fultz.

FALCONS: Offensive line coach Bill Walsh was again rewarded for his meritorious service when the club elected to further strengthen a vastly improved unit via the first round selection of Mike Kenn, a standout offensive tackle from Michigan. Walsh and head coach Leeman Bennet were also excited over the prospects of third round pick Stan Waldermore, a fair sized guard from Nebraska. The club used its second round pick to strengthen the linebacking corps with the addition of Minnesota's Steve Stewart.

LOS ANGELES RAMS

1978 Schedule		
9/3	at Phila.	1:00
9/10	ATLANTA	1:00
9/17	DALLAS	1:00
9/24	at Houston	1:00
10/1	at New Orl.	1:00
10/8	SAN FRAN.	1:00
10/15	at Minnesota	3:00
10/22	NEW ORL.	1:00
10/30	at Atlnta(Mn)	9:00
11/5	TAMPA BAY	1:00
11/12	PITTSBURGH	5:00
11/19	at San Fran.	1:00
11/26	at Cleveland	1:00
12/3	at N.Y. Giants	1:00
12/11	CINN. (Mon)	6:00
12/17	GREEN BAY	1:00

1977 Results		
9/18	at Atla. (+11½)	6-17
9/25	PHILA. (+10½)	20-0
10/2	S. F. (+12½)	34-14
10/10	at Chic. (+4)	23-24
10/16	N. O. (+11½)	14-7
10/24	MINN. (+2½)	35-3
10/30	at N. O. (+8)	26-27
11/6	T. B. (+21)	31-0
11/13	at G. B. (+10½)	24-6
11/20	at S. F. (+4)	23-10
11/27	CLEVE. (+2)	9-0
12/4	OAKL. (-2½)	20-14
12/11	ATLA. (+10½)	23-7
12/17	at Wash. (+3)	14-17

Once again, Carroll Rosenbloom succumbed to impatience. This time C.R.'s consuming pursuit of that elusive second Super Bowl ring has surfaced in an invitation to George Allen to return to the Ram organization that he had served so well (49-17-4) before departing for Washington seven seasons ago.

When one remembers that Knox's record as Ram mentor was even better (54-15-1) than Allen's tenure over a similar span of five seasons, it is difficult to understand why Knox left Los Angeles willingly.

However, Rosenbloom was known to be disenchanted with Knox's supposed inability to motivate his players — especially some of the club's defensive regulars — and the fact that Knox failed again to reach the Super Bowl no doubt added to the certainty of a coaching change.

Allen, who left Washington willingly — almost gleefully — despite his denounciation of Ed Williams' alleged disloyality, arrives in Tinseltown with coaching his sole occupation.

Of course, the lack of a particular title won't prevent George from attempting to annex as much of the player personnel responsibilities that Don Klosterman may or may not care to surrender. In any case, the game within a game off the field will feature a power struggle within the front-office that should be nearly as interesting as the club's struggle to survive the NFC Championship game.

As usual, the Rams have nearly everything necessary to insure that their post-season travels don't end prematurely. A potent offense, keyed by Pat Haden, Lawrence McCutcheon, Harold Jackson and a healthy Ron Jessie, will be ably supported by an aggressive and versatile defense that figures to be even tougher when Allen refines the talents of the likes of Fred Dryer, Jack Youngblood, Jack Reynolds and one of the better secondaries (built around Monte Jackson and Bill Simpson) in either conference.

Combine such personnel advantages with the weakest schedule — just five games against teams with winning records — of any NFC contender, and the Rams seem virtually assured of their usual post-season laurels as the best in a weak Western Division.

It will be up to Allen to find a way past Dallas — something he's made a habit of doing in the past — that will somehow finish in Miami, the scene of Super Bowl XIII.

QUARTERBACK: After spending the first month of the '77 season on the bench in a disputed back-up role to Joe Namath, Pat Haden proved that he is a capable starter as attested to by a statistical performance that saw him finish as the NFL's third rated passer. Only Roger Staubach and Bob Griese had a better set of numbers than the stats that belonged to Haden. The former USC hero completed nearly 57% of his passes while notching eleven TDs and just six interceptions with a total yardage figure of 1551. Allen would dearly love to sign Roman Gabriel as veteran insurance, while Vince Ferragamo surely must have left a lasting impression because of his performance against the Redskins in the season finale.

GRADE A

RUNNING BACK: Lawrence McCutcheon (294 attempts, 1238 yards, a 4.2 average and 7 TDs) and John Cappalletti give the Rams one of the most effective rushing combos in the NFC. McCutcheon now has cracked the 1,000 yard mark for a fouth time in five year career, Cappalletti is an excellent receiver and a tough blocker. Wendell Tyler has more than enough speed while Jim Jodat and Cullen Bryant provide quality depth.

GRADE A+

RECEIVERS: Rams figure to benefit handily from rules change, especially with healthy tandem of Harold Jackson and Ron Jessie. Latter went down with tough knee injury and Jackson saw even more double coverage. Billy Waddy, a second round steal, filled in well enough for Jessie and finished his rookie season with 23 catches and a 15.4 average. TE Terry Nelson fought off the challenge of cousin Charlie Young, and showed that he can block and catch — 31 receptions for a 12.9 average and 3 TDs. Rams also get better than adequate production from Cappelletti and McCutcheon (53 combined receptions) who caused considerable coverage problems for opposing linebackers.

GRADE A+

OFFENSIVE LINE: Injuries hurt the overall effectiveness of this unit. Doug France was lost early in the summer and it was not until late in the season that he played up to past performance level. Dennis Harrah's season ended in November and he was not fully replaced even though Greg Horton did well enough. With these former number one picks fully healthy, along with veterans like John Williams and Tom Mack, as well as underrated center Rich Saul, the Rams have a quality offensive line that has the added dimension of excellent depth in the person of Donnie Hickman, Ed Fulton and Jeff Williams.

GRADE A-

DEFENSIVE LINE: Ram insiders tie team's poor start (4-3) over the first half of the season to unexpected drop in efficency of club's usually tough pass rush. Neither Jack Youngblood nor Fred Dryer played up to form in the early going, but seemed to revert to past success over the last month of play. Larry Brooks is still an all-pro tackle, but Mike Fanning and Cody Jones did not make up for the loss of Merlin Olsen. It's still tough to run against the Rams, but there is a need for quality depth here.

GRADE A

LINEBACKERS: Early season absence of Jack Reynolds due to contractual problems afforded increased opportunity for Jim Youngblood and number one pick Bob Brudzinski but team did not play up to form here until Reynolds was restored to rightful place in the middle. Loss of Kevin McLain to knee problems hurt depth here. Isiah Robertson still makes the big play but might be too much of a gambler to suit Allen.

GRADE B+

SECONDARY: Monte Jackson is all-pro corner and club's best pass defender despite his theft production having been halved to five. Bill Simpson led the club with six steals as the Rams secondary was forced to overcome a series of injuries. Pat Thomas filled in well enough for Rod Perry while Dave Elmendorf could be threatened because of overall athletic talent of Nolan Cromwell.

GRADE A

KICKING GAME: Rookie Rafael Septien, picked up from Saints on waivers, may have solved nagging FG and XP problems. Free agent Glenn Walker, although finishing last in NFL average, still benefited from improved coverage and, best of all, no one blocked any of his kicks. Special teams vastly improved and will be even better with

Paul Lanham in charge. Waddy, Bryant and speedster Wendell Tyler give Rams exciting return unit that has potential for scoring from anywhere on the field.

GRADE B+

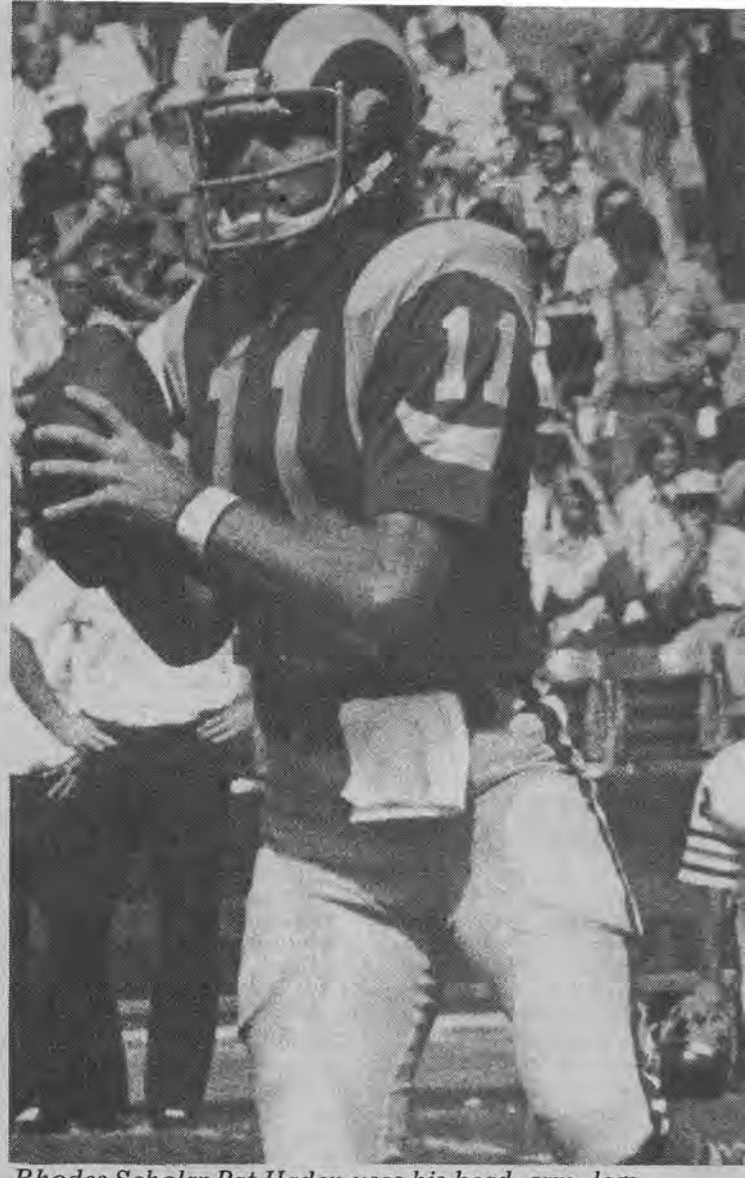
COACHING: Allen has assembled top-notch staff that will include Bud Carson, the former defensive coordinator of the Steelers. Ray Malavasi, perhaps the new heir-apparent, has shifted to offense and will be in charge of the Rams overall attack. Allen will not be out coached and the team will be sure to get the most out of the considerable talent on hand.

GRADE A+

FRONT OFFICE: Rams have the highest number of top front office executives in the league. Steve Rosenbloom runs the show off the field while Don Klosterman handles most of the personnel management. Rams have superb scouting staff headed by Dick Steinberg who took over last year for Norm Pollen after an excellent apprenticeship under Bucko Kilroy at New England. Carroll Rosenbloom will remain the hidden force here. C.R. is still one of the best owners in the game and it will be interesting to see how long it takes for George Allen to realize the kind of predicament he has gotten himself into.

GRADE A+

PREDICTION: Rams are blessed with fine coaching, superb personnel and the weakest schedule in the NFC. Club will benefit from good position in the draft that should enable Klosterman to negotiate some attractive deals. Return to health of key performers such as Ron Jessie Dennis Harrah and Bill Simpson will help as well. Rams are a cinch pick to win the West no matter how improved the opposition will be, but it remains to be seen if Allen can succeed where Knox failed. Carrol Rosenbloom will be keeping score, and Allen should know that patience is no virtue in Los Angeles, unless the season ends in Miami.



Rhodes Scholar Pat Haden uses his head, arm, legs.

LOS ANGELES RAMS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
L. McCutcheon	294	1238	4.2	48	7

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Bill Simpson	6	157	26.2	42	0

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Billy Waddy	31	5	219	7.1	48	0

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
Pat Haden	216	122	56.5	1551	11	6	2.8

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Harold Jackson	48	666	13.9	58	6

KICK-OFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Wendell Tyler	24	523	21.8	37	0

PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
Glenn Walker	73	56	35.2	31.4

SCORING	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Rafel Septien	32	35	18	30	86

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
90	Brooks,L.	DT	6-3/255	7	6/10/50	Va.St.-Ptsbrg	14
59	Brudzinski,B.	LB	6-4/230	2	1/1/55	Ohio St.	14
32	Bryant,C.	RB-KR	6-1/235	6	5/20/51	Colorado	14
22	Cappelleti,J.	RB	6-1/217	5	8/9/52	Penn St.	14
44	Collins,S.	RB	6-1/196	2	1/17/53	Kentucky	*0
70	Cowlings,A.	DE-DT	6-5/245	8	6/16/47	USC	14
21	Cromwell,N.	S	6-1/196	2	1/30/55	Kansas	14
89	Dryer,F.	DE	6-6/240	10	7/6/46	S.Diego St.	14
55	Ekern,C.	LB	6-3/220	3	5/27/54	San Jose St.	14
42	Elmendorf,D.	S	6-1/195	8	6/20/49	Texas A&M	14
79	Fanning,M.	DT	6-6/260	4	2/2/53	Notre Dame	14
15	Ferragamo,V.	QB	6-3/208	2	4/24/54	Nebraska	3
77	France,D.	T	6-5/272	4	4/26/53	Ohio St.	13
11	Haden,P.	QB	5-11/182	3	1/23/53	USC	12
60	Harrah,D.	G	6-5/257	4	3/9/53	Miami	8
73	†Hill,W.	T	6-4/272	16	10/23/41	Tex.So.	3
63	Horton,G.	G	6-4/245	3	1/7/51	Colorado	14
29	Jackson,H.	WR	5-10/175	11	1/6/46	Jackson St.	14
28	Jackson,M.	CB	5-11/189	4	7/14/53	S.Diego St.	14
81	Jessie,R.	WR	6-0/185	8	2/4/48	Kansas	3
43	Jodat,J.	RB	5-11/210	2	3/3/54	Carthage	14
88	Johns,F.	WR	6-1/175	2	12/20/53	So.Methodist	5
76	Jones,C.	DT-DE	6-5/240	5	5/3/51	San Jose St.	14
84	Joyce,T.	P-TE	6-6/230	3	7/18/54	Mo.So.St.	*4
65	†Mack,Tom	G	6-3/250	13	11/1/43	Michigan	14
30	McCutcheon,L.	RB	6-1/205	6	6/2/50	Colorado St.	14
50	McLain,K.	LB	6-2/227	3	9/15/54	Colorado St.	8
82	Miller,W.	WR	5-9/172	3	4/26/47	Colorado St.	*0
83	Nelson,T.	TE	6-2/230	5	5/20/51	Arkansas AM&N	14
51	Nuzum,R.	C	6-4/238	2	6/30/52	Kentucky	14
49	Perry,R.	CB	5-9/170	4	9/11/53	Colorado	5
39	Phillips,R.	RB	6-0/220	4	12/23/52	Jackson St.	14
54	†Pifferini,B.	LB	6-2/226	6	6/27/50	UCLA	5
64	Reynolds,J.	LB	6-1/232	9	11/22/47	Tennessee	9
58	Robertson,I.	LB	6-3/225	8	8/17/49	Southern	14
61	Saul,R.	C	6-3/250	9	2/5/48	Michigan St.	14
87	Scales,D.	WR-KR	6-2/170	3	5/30/53	Grambling	12
33	†Scribner,R.	RB	6-0/200	5	4/9/51	UCLA	*0
1	Septien,R.	K	5-9/171	2	12/12/53	Sothwst La	14
48	Simpson,B.	S	6-1/180	5	12/5/51	Michigan St.	14
78	Slater,J.	G	6-4/270	3	5/2/54	Jackson St.	14
27	Thomas,P.	CB	5-9/180	3	9/1/54	Texas A&M	14
26	Tyler,W.	RB-KR	5-10/188	2	5/20/55	UCLA	14
80	Waddy,B.	WR-KR	5-11/185	2	2/19/54	Colorado	14
19	Walker,G.	P-K	6-1/210	2	1/16/52	USC	14
20	Wallace,J.	S-CB	6-3/198	5	3/13/51	Arizona	10
75	Williams,J.	T	6-3/265	11	10/27/45	Minnesota	14
86	Young,C.	TE	6-4/235	6	2/5/51	USC	14
85	Youngblood,J.	DE	6-4/242	8	1/26/50	FLorida	14
53	Youngblood,Jim	LB	6-3/239	6	2/23/50	Tenn.Tech.	14

*Collins last active with Atlanta in '76; Joyce played 4 games with St. Louis; Miller and Scribner missed entire '77 season due to injury.
†Option playout; subject to developments.
Retired: Joe Namath.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ers

1978 Schedule		
9/3	at Cleveland	1:00
9/10	CHICAGO	1:00
9/17	at Houston	1:00
9/24	at N.Y. Giants	4:00
10/1	CINCINNATI	1:00
10/8	at Los Angeles	1:00
10/15	NEW ORL.	1:00
10/22	ATLANTA	1:00
10/29	at Washington	1:00
11/5	at Atlanta	1:00
11/12	ST. LOUIS	1:00
11/19	LOS ANG.	1:00
11/27	PITTS.(Mon.)	6:00
12/3	at New Orl.	1:00
12/10	TAMPA BAY	1:00
12/17	at Detroit	1:00

1977 Results		
9/19	at Pitts. (-13½)	0-27
9/25	MIAMI (-4)	15-19
10/2	at L. A. (-13)	14-34
10/9	ATLA. (+3½)	0-7
10/16	GIANTS (+2½)	17-20
10/23	DETROIT (-1½)	28-7
10/30	T. B. (+16)	20-10
11/6	at Atlanta (-3)	10-3
11/13	at N. O. (+2)*	10-7
11/20	L. A. (-4)	10-23
11/27	N. O. (+3½)	20-17
12/4	at Minn. (-7)	27-28
12/12	DALLAS (-7)	35-42
12/18	at G. B. (-2½)	14-16

*Overtime

Joe Thomas has never been one to shy away from controversy, and the O.J. Simpson deal seems to offer little exception to such rule.

Questioned at first because of the Juice's ailing knee and his avowed intention of playing just two more seasons, Thomas' decision to add to a backfield attack that already featured the multi talents of Wilbur Jackson and Delvin Williams seems well conceived in the light of subsequent events.

Should Thomas be able to deal either Williams or Jackson for another number one draft choice, then the gamble to pursue Simpson will have paid off with the team becoming a distinct threat within a very weak division.

While Thomas is an admitted genius when it comes to his affinity for making some of the most attractive personnel deals within memory, he is also one of the toughest people in the sport to coach for.

In dismissing Ken Meyer after just a season's worth of work, Thomas has now managed to yield the ax a seventh time since leaving the Dolphins in 1972.

As a result, the Niners will have a new coach and a new approach for the fourth consecutive season.

Pete McCulley, a Thomas loyalist in Baltimore who spent last season coaching the Redskin wide-receivers, has been given the task of keeping the Niners competitive while Thomas seeks to build the kind of team he has fashioned in the past at Baltimore, Miami and Minnesota.

QUARTERBACK: Jim Plunkett had difficult time of it in earlier part of '77 season but closed with several fine performances, especially against Dallas in the final Monday Night game of the campaign. The former Stanford hero ranked eighth in the NFC and finished with 1693 yards and nine TD passes against 14 interceptions. Plunkett seemed more in control of things when allowed to call his own plays and it will be interesting to see if McCulley continues this philosophy. Scott Bull, who did a fairly effective job in 1976, could be in trouble as the main back-up, especially if Steve DeBerg (former Cowboy reject) capitalizes on his potential. Thomas and McCulley would also be interested in dealing with the Colts for either Mike Kirkland or Bill Troup.

GRADE B

RUNNING BACKS: When Delvin Williams heard about the arrival of the Juice, he had just one question. 'Who's going to block? It certainly won't be O.J. Simpson running as the lead back in an attack that, barring trades, will have the potential to be the most productive in the history of the game, especially if the offensive line is bolstered via the draft. Williams, whose rushing credentials include the fact that he has outgained the Juice in total yardage over the last two seasons — 2134 yards to 2060 for O.J., is a classic outside runner with an abundance of speed and moves. Jackson is tough to bring down, and an excellent blocker to boot. The former number one pick who has been handicapped by injuries throughout the three years he's played since leaving Alabama, is an excellent power runner as well as a good receiver.

GRADE A+

RECEIVERS: Gene Washington, the former Stanford teammate of Plunkett's who re-established the worth of the famed college long distance connection with his finest season in the last three years, should benefit greatly from the rules change that will allow receivers to get open more often, especially on deeper patterns. Kenny Harrison and Jim Lash failed to make up for the absence of former Ram reject Willie McGee who sat out most of the season with an ailing knee. Tom Mitchell is a tough blocker but Paul Seal — imported from New Orleans in a typical Thomas trade — is a better receiver and will strengthen the TE position. Number three pick_Elmo Boyd spent most of his rookie season on the injured reserve list, but should challenge for a starting spot this time around.

GRADE B-

OFFENSIVE LINE: No doubt this area will be high on Thomas priority list of replacements. Problems continued here throughout the season as Cas Banaszak went down with a severe knee injury and it is doubtful that he will return for his eleventh season. Steve Lawson is a journeyman type who is now with his third team, while the other guard, Woody Peoples is approaching the end of a fine career, Randy Cross is an undersized center but Thomas feels he's adequate enough, especially if there is more talent alongside him. Jean Barrett and Keith Farnhorst are capable tackles while John Miller is a better than average prospect who played on special teams.

GRADE C+

DEFENSIVE LINE: Powerful pass rush slipped somewhat as the Gold Rush headed by Cedrick Hardman, Tommy Hart and Cleveland Elam saw their QB traps slip from 61 to 42. Hardman and Hart still rank among the top DEs in the game while Elam is club's best defensive lineman. Elam was voted to the Pro Bowl Squad for the second consecutive season and such honors were well earned. Niners are tough to run against and if the secondary improves, it won't be much fun to throw the ball either. Not with Hardman and Elam applying their considerable talents. Jimmy Webb, the other tackle, still hasn't proven that he was a bona-fide number one pick. Tony Cline and Ed Galigher are the main reserves.

GRADE A

LINEBACKERS: Injuries caused several problems here as well. Loss of Dave Washington took away big play potential as well as fine pass coverage ability. Willie Harper was sidelined with series of nagging injuries as well. Bruce Elia, Skip Vanderbundt and Ed Bradley shared considerable playing time, while Howard Stidham earned his keep with some fine special teams play. Washington has to be healthy for Niners to improve against the run and it will be interesting to see if Ed Bradley, the former back-up to Jack Lambert in Pittsburgh whom Thomas imported from Seattle, will play up to the potential Thomas credits him with.

GRADE C+

SECONDARY: Niners had just eight interceptions and finished dead last in this vital defensive statistical category. Thomas will be seeking quality help at cornerback. Jimmy Johnson retired and was not adequately replaced. Club could use Nate Allen now. Anthony Leonard has talent but must curb tendency to be inconsistent. Bruce Taylor not nearly as good as in the past while aging Mel Phillips, although still tough against the run, has lost some speed and has a tough time in coverage situations. Ralph McGill, who will be coming back from his own injuries, handles the FS slot.

GRADE C-

KICKING GAME: Still something of a trouble spot. Real problems early in the season when Tom Wittum played dual role as placement kicker and punter. Addition of Ray Wersching enabled Wittum to concentrate on punting. Former Charger Wersching won two games against the Saints with fine clutch kicking and seems set for the coming season on strength of late performances.

GRADE C

COACHING: Pete McCulley has interesting background but it remains to be seen if players will accept him as legitimate authority. Everyone knows it's Joe Thomas' team. McCulley has put together a fairly decent staff with Dan Radakovich, a former offensive aide to Chuck Noll, taking over command of the defense.

GRADE D+

FRONT OFFICE: Joe Thomas in full command of every facet of the Niner operation. Niners have had tough time of late with some poor trades and lack of drafting position. Thomas set out to remedy this and if he can swing one or two more big name trades, club will be vastly improved. Jack White is still on scene as pro scout but Howard White the man in charge of day to day scouting operations.

GRADE A+

PREDICTION: Arrival of O.J. as well as day of the draft maneuverings should enable Niners to improve offensively. Defense is still club's strong suit and if personnel meshes with coaching staff, team could be spoiler. Tough schedule has Niners meeting seven teams with winning records.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Delvin Williams	268	931	3.5	40	7

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
D. Washington	2	68	34.0	50	0
Mel Phillips	2	23	11.5	23	0

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Anthony Leonard	22	2	154	7.0	19	0

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
J. Plunkett	248	128	51.6	1693	9	14	5.6

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Gene Washington	32	638	19.9	47	5

KICK-OFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Paul Hoffer	36	871	24.2	48	0

PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
Tom Wittum	77	54	36.4	28.5

SCORING	TD	TDR	TDP	PTS
Delvin Williams	9	7	2	54

O.J. will run for Joe Thomas until it "Hertz."

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
68	Ayers, John	T	6-5/247	2	4/4/53	W. Tex. St.	14
41	Baldassin, Mike	LB	6-1/218	2	7/26/55	Washington	14
79	Banaszek, Cas	T	6-3/247	11	12/24/45	Northwestern	*6
77	Barrett, Jean	T	6-6/250	6	5/24/51	Tulsa	14
26	Black, Stan	S	6-0/196	1	11/12/55	Miss. St.	13
54	Bradley, Ed	LB	6-1/225	7	4/22/50	Wake Forest	14
19	Bull, Scott	QB	6-5/215	3	6/8/53	Arkansas	6
28	Burns, Mike	CB	6-0/181	2	4/6/54	USC	14
76	Cooke, Bill	DT-DE	6-6/243	4	2/26/51	Massachusetts	14
51	Cross, Randy	C	6-3/250	3	4/25/54	UCLA	14
17	DeBerg, Steve	QB	6-2/205	2	1/19/54	San Jose St.	*0
72	Elam, Cleveland	DT	6-4/251	4	4/5/52	Tennessee St.	14
55	Elia, Bruce	LB	6-1/220	4	1/10/53	Ohio St.	13
71	Fahnhorst, Keith	T	6-6/263	5	2/6/52	Minnesota	14
38	Ferrell, Bob	RB	6-0/219	3	11/13/52	UCLA	14
75	Galigher, Ed	DT	6-5/247	7	10/15/50	UCLA	12
86	Hardman, C.	DE	6-4/244	9	10/4/48	No. Tex. St.	14
59	Harper, Willie	LB	6-2/295	6	7/30/50	Nebraska	12
83	Harrison, K.	WR	6-9/164	3	12/12/53	SMU	14
53	Hart, Tommy	DE	6-4/246	11	11/7/44	Morris Brown	14
36	Hofer, Paul	RB	6-0/193	3	5/13/52	Mississippi	14
40	Jackson, Wilbur	RB	6-1/213	5	11/19/51	Alabama	14
87	Lash, Jim	WR	6-2/200	6	11/12/51	Northwestern	10
65	Lawson, Steve	G	6-3/257	8	1/4/49	Kansas	14
42	Leonard, Tony	KR-CB	5-11/165	3	2/8/53	Virginia Union	13
22	Lewis, Eddie	CB-S	6-0/174	3	12/15/53	Kansas	14
	Matthews, Al	S-CB	5-11/190	8	11/7/47	Texas A&I	1
81	McGee, Willie	WR	5-11/178	6	5/14/50	Alcorn St.	7
49	McGill, Ralph	PR-S	5-11/180	7	4/28/50	Tulsa	13
66	Miller, Johnny	G	6-1/247	2	2/3/54	Livingstone	6
84	Mitchell, Tom	TE	6-4/226	12	8/22/44	Bucknell	13
89	Obradovich, J.	TE	6-2/227	4	4/2/53	USC	12
69	†Peoples, Woody	G	6-2/250	10	8/16/43	Grambling	14
32	†Phillips, Mel	S	6-2/185	13	1/6/42	No. Car. A&T	14
16	Plunkett, Jim	QB	6-2/207	8	12/5/47	Stanford	14
85	Seal, Paul	TE	6-4/223	5	2/27/52	Michigan	14
	Simpson, O.J.	RB	6-1/212	10	7/9/47	USC	7
67	Singleton, R.	T	6-7/275	13	4/15/52	Grambling	*1
58	Stidham, Howard	LB	6-2/214	2	12/17/54	Tenn. Tech	4
44	Taylor, Bruce	CB	6-0/178	9	5/28/48	Boston U.	14
52	Vanderbundt, S.	LB	6-3/225	10	12/4/46	Oregon St.	14
50	Washington, D.	LB	6-5/228	9	9/12/48	Alcorn St.	*9
18	Washington, G.	WR	6-1/180	10	1/14/47	Stanford	14
74	Webb, Jimmy	DT	6-5/245	4	4/13/52	Miss. St.	14
14	Wersching, R.	K	5-11/210	6	8/21/50	California	10
30	Williams, Dave	RB	6-2/200	2	3/10/54	Colorado	12
24	Williams, Delvin	RB	6-0/195	5	4/17/51	Kansas	14
13	Wittum, Tom	P	6-1/198	6	1/11/50	No. Illinois	14

*DeBerg was active for 5 games, but did not play; Singleton was active for 5 games and played in 1; Banaszek played the first 6 games, before missing the remainder of the season with an injury; Washington played in 9 games before missing the remainder of the season because of injury.
†Option playout; subject to developments.

ATLANTA FALCONS

Leeman Bennett, the Falcons youngish sideline mentor, earned Coach of the Year Honors by stint of his team's dramatic defensive improvement that kept the club in playoff contention until the twelfth week of play.

The tone of that improvement can best be judged by the difference in the points allowed category between the Falcons' last two seasons.

In 1976, Atlanta's thin line of defense was pounded for 312 points enroute to compiling a 4-10 record which cost Marion Campbell his job. What a difference a year made for the '77 Falcons.

Gifted with a pair of fine defensive linemen in the person of Wilson Faumunia and Edgar Fields as well as the return to health of Claude Humphrey, the Falcon defense set a 14 game record of allowing 129 points.

However, the offense failed to keep pace and is in need of dramatic improvement to keep the Falcons soaring in their unaccustomed flight to contention.

While Bennett's defense was number one in the NFL against the pass and the second best unit in the game in total defense, the offense was buried at the other half of the statistical spectrum. The Falcons finished 25th in total offense and were next to last in the passing stats.

The latter disability could be tracked back to the knee problems of QB Steve Bartkowski who missed half the season.

Other injured Falcons who could make a difference in the team's performance are Fulton Kukendyall and former number one pick Bubba Bean who has been plagued with injuries throughout his two year career.

Atlanta has a moderately difficult schedule in that they will have seven games against teams with winning records while the total number of opposition wins stands at 105.

QUARTERBACK: Under Scott Hunter's direction the Falcons won four of their first seven games. Hunter, the former Packer number one draft choice who failed in previous efforts with the Giants and the Bills, threw just three interceptions while being sacked 11 times. However, the Falcons were punchless in terms of putting the ball in the end-zone and Bennett was forced to go back to a virtually immobile Bartkowski sooner than he would have liked to. In the seven games Bart started he was sacked 29 times and threw 13 interceptions. Of course, Bart is by far the better passer, but his damaged knees have severely restricted his mobility and robbed him of much of his talent.

GRADE B-

RUNNING BACK: Atlanta lacks a consistent running game and needs to improve its outside speed. Haskel Stanback, a tough inside runner who netted 873 yards on 247 carries, is a dependable performer but the club needs more speed than either Monroe Eley or Woody Thompson have provided. Bubba Bean could help here if he can stay healthy.

GRADE C

RECEIVERS: Alfred Jenkins, a former WFL refugee, has turned out to be the Falcons best receiver (39 catches, a 17.4 avg. and 4 TDs) and is a threat to score from any place on the field. Jenkins has superb speed, good hands and is not afraid to block. TE Jim Mitchell, once the premier TE in the NFC West, is coming back from a series of hobbling injuries and will make a difference in the Falcon passing attack now that he is healthy. Wallace Francis, the other outside starter, is a journeyman type and not the answer. There is need here for quality depth.

GRADE C+

1978 Schedule

9/3	HOUSTON	1:00
9/10	at L.A.	1:00
9/17	CLEVELAND	1:00
9/24	at Tampa Bay	4:00
10/1	N.Y. GIANTS	1:00
10/8	at Pittsburgh	1:00
10/15	DETROIT	1:00
10/22	at San Fran.	1:00
10/30	L.A. (Mon.)	9:00
11/5	SAN FRAN.	1:00
11/12	at New Orl.	1:00
11/19	at Chicago	1:00
11/26	NEW ORL.	1:00
12/3	at Cincinnati	1:00
12/10	WASH.	1:00
12/17	at St. Louis	1:00

1977 Results

9/18	L. A. (-11½)	17-6
9/25	at Wash. (-9)	6-10
10/2	GIANTS (+3½)	17-3
10/9	at S. F. (-3½)	7-0
10/16	at Buffalo (+2)	0-3
10/23	at Chic. (-6½)	16-10
10/30	MINN. (-4)	7-14
11/6	S. F. (+3)	3-10
11/13	DETROIT (+4)	17-6
11/20	at N. O. (+3½)	20-21
11/27	at T. B. (+9)	17-0
12/4	N. E. (-5)	10-16
12/11	at L. A. (-10½)	7-23
12/18	N. O. (+6½)	35-7

OFFENSIVE LINE: Pass protection afforded by Bill Walsh's finely coached unit was inconsistent during second half of season but probably due in large part to lack of mobility at QB. Number one pick Warren Bryant played up to his college potential and will anchor Falcon line for years to come. Number two pick R.C. Theilman was a pleasant surprise and Jeff Van Note, despite troublesome knee problems, earned pro bowl honors once again. Dave Scott and Brent Adams are the other starters. Falcons are thin here as well.

GRADE C+

DEFENSIVE LINE: Claude Humphrey came all the way back from serious knee troubles to enjoy an outstanding season. Is still the club's best pass rusher and must be doubled most of the time. Jeff Merrow, the other end, is underrated but consistent. Tackles Jim Bailey and Mike Lewis are nominal starters, but number one pick Wilson Faumunia will be even tougher to block as a sophomore. As a unit, the Falcon front four was tough to run on and very tough on opposing passers as well. Edgar Fields needs more playing time.

GRADE A

LINEBACKERS: Credit coaching of Doug Shively with producing fine mixture of play despite retirement of Tommy Nobis and injury problems of Fulton Kuykendall. Ralph Ortega, a former number two pick, stepped in for Nobis and did an excellent job in the middle. Robert Pennywell, acquired from SF two years ago on waivers, played well in place of Kuykendall while Greg Brezina drew some support for Pro Bowl honors.

GRADE B+

SECONDARY: Atlanta secondary posted best mark in the NFC and was the toughest unit to throw against in the league. Spurred by all-pro contributions of Rolland Lawrence (seven steals to pace the NFC), the outstanding cornerback, who is yet another free agent find of Tom Braatz, the Falcons led the NFC with 26 interceptions. Ray Brown and Ray Easterling offer solid support at the safety spot and both have big play ability. Rick Byas and Frank Marion shared playing time on the right side.

GRADE A-

KICKING GAME: Falcons must have kicked themselves all winter long because of wasted early season opportunities and errors that plagued Nick Mike-Meyer. Former Raider Fred Steinfort did well enough in the latter stages of the season while John James continued in his role as the NFC's premier punter. Club needs speedy kick returner to relieve Rolland Lawrence from role as specialist. The Falcons special teams produced five blocked punts.

GRADE B

COACHING: Leeman Bennett and his staff did an excellent job in getting the defense to play beyond the potential of its personnel. The offensive line is also well coached but the club needs to improve its passing attack drastically to capitalize on NFL's most improved defense. The addition of Dick Wood as QB coach should help here and will give Falcon staff decided Saintly look in that he will be joining former New Orleans coaches, Shively and John North.

Bill Walsh received recognition for fine teaching performance and is credited with rapid development of Bryant and R. C. Theilmann. Walsh's counterpart on defense, Jim Champion did the same kind of job with his top rookie prospects, Wilson Faumunia and Edgar Fields.

GRADE A+

FRONT OFFICE: Eddie LeBaron did what Rankin Smith hired him to do and gave the Falcon front office a distinctive brand of leadership as well as some much needed organization. Tom Braatz is one of the premier personnel people in the league and has not yet received the kind of publicity given to the likes of Bobby Beathard and Joe Thomas. Falcons have added twelve starters via the draft in the past three years and have been virtually rebuilt from the ground up. Selection of Warren Bryant and Wilson Faumunia in first round of '77 draft represented one of most profitable draft day moves in franchise history. Rankin Smith gets another plus for deciding to turn day to day operation of the franchise over to oldest son, Rankin Jr. who is well liked throughout the league.

GRADE B+

PREDICTION: Falcons have moderately tough schedule that includes Houston, Washington, Chicago and Cincinnati in addition to the home-and-home series with the Rams. It will be tough for the Falcons to duplicate last year's success because of overall improvement within the division. However, Atlanta will play the role of spoiler even if the club fails to match its contending role of a year ago. Look for the Falcons to finish neck and neck with the Forty-Niners in their collective pursuit of the Rams.

ATLANTA FALCONS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Haskel Stanback	247	873	3.5	35	6

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Rolland Lawrence	7	138	19.7	36	0

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Rolland Lawrence	51	10	352	6.9	37	0

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
Scott Hunter	151	70	46.4	898	2	3	2.0
S. Bartkowski	136	64	47.1	796	5	13	9.6

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Alfred Jenkins	39	677	17.4	73	4

KICK-OFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Karl Farmer	21	419	20.0	30	0

PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
John James	105	61	41.4	34.0

SCORING	TD	TDR	TDP	PTS
Haskel Stanback	6	6	0	36

A healthy Steve Bartkowski would solve QB problem.

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
61	Adams, Brent	T	6-5/256	4	6/2/52	Tenn.-Chat.	14
72	†Bailey, Jim	DE	6-5/260	9	6/9/48	Kansas	14
10	Bartkowski, S.	QB	6-4/213	4	11/12/52	California	8
44	Bean, Bubba	RB	5-11/195	2	12/26/54	Texas A&M	*0
50	Brezina, Greg	LB	6-1/221	11	1/7/46	Houston	14
34	Brown, Ray	S	6-2/202	8	1/12/49	W. Texas St.	14
66	Bryant, Warren	T	6-6/270	2	11/11/55	Kentucky	14
38	Byas, Rick	S	5-9/180	5	10/19/50	Wayne St.	14
32	Easterling, R.	S	6-0/192	7	9/3/49	Richmond	14
46	Eley, Monroe	RB	6-2/210	4	4/17/49	Arizona St.	7
26	Esposito, Mike	RB	6-0/183	3	4/24/53	BC	14
80	Farmer, Karl	WR	5-11/165	3	8/28/54	Pittsburgh	14
74	Faumuina, W.	DT	6-5/275	2	8/11/54	San Jose St.	14
77	Fields, Edgar	DT	6-2/255	2	3/10/54	Texas A&M	14
89	Francis, W.	WR	5-11/190	6	11/7/51	Ark. AM&N	14
65	Gotshalk, Len	T	6-4/259	7	10/21/49	Humboldt St.	*0
87	Humphrey, C.	DE	6-5/265	11	6/29/44	Tenn. St.	14
16	Hunter, S.	QB	6-2/205	8	11/19/47	Alabama	7
6	James, John	P	6-3/200	7	1/21/49	Florida	14
84	Jenkins, A.	WR	5-10/172	4	1/25/52	Morris Brown	14
14	Jones, June	QB	6-4/200	2	2/19/53	Portland St.	1
58	Kay, Rick	LB	6-4/235	5	11/10/49	Colorado	*12
54	Kuykendall, F.	LB	6-5/225	4	9/16/50	UCLA	5
22	Lawrence, R.	CB	5-10/179	6	3/24/51	Tabor	14
69	Lewis, Mike	DT	6-4/261	8	7/14/49	Ark. AM&N	14
56	McCartney, R.	LB	6-1/220	2	7/29/54	Tennessee	14
52	McClain, Dewey	LB	6-3/236	3	4/25/54	E. Cen. Okla.	13
88	McCrary, Greg	TE	6-3/230	4	3/24/52	Clark	13
41	McIntyre, S.	RB	5-10/190	2	6/2/54	Auburn	6
73	McKinnely, P.	T	6-4/248	3	7/8/54	UCLA	14
11	McQuilken, K.	QB	6-2/203	5	2/26/51	Lehigh	7
75	Merrow, Jeff	DE	6-4/230	4	7/11/53	W. Virginia	14
86	Mitchell, J.	TE	6-1/236	10	10/19/47	Prairie View	12
45	Moriarty, T.	S	6-0/185	2	4/7/53	BGU	14
55	Ortega, Ralph	LB	6-2/220	4	7/6/53	Florida	14
59	Pennywell, R.	LB	6-1/222	3	11/6/54	Grambling	14
39	Pritchett, Billy	RB	6-3/230	4	2/22/51	W. Tex. St.	9
28	Reed, Frank	CB	5-11/193	3	5/13/54	Washington	14
82	Ryckman, Billy	WR	5-11/172	2	2/28/55	La. Tech	14
53	Ryczek, Paul	C	6-2/230	5	6/25/52	Virginia	14
70	Scott, Dave	T	6-4/285	3	12/26/53	Kansas	14
51	Spiva, Andy	LB	6-2/220	2	2/6/55	Tennessee	13
24	Stanback, H.	RB	6-0/210	5	3/19/52	Tennessee	14
1	Steinfort, F.	KS	5-11/180	3	11/3/52	BCU	7
68	Thielemann, R.C.	G	6-4/247	2	8/12/55	Arkansas	14
48	Thompson, W.	RB	6-1/228	3	8/20/52	Miami	14
57	Van Note, J.	C	6-2/247	10	2/7/46	Kentucky	14
79	Yeates, Jeff	DT	6-3/248	6	2/7/51	BCU	13

*Bean and Gotshalk were on injured reserve for the 1977 season. Bean was inactive for 3 games before being placed on reserve. Kay also played 5 games for Los Angeles in '77.

†Option playout; subject to developments.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

1978 Schedule		
9/3	MINNESOTA	1:00
9/10	at G. B. (Milw)	1:00
9/17	PHILA.	1:00
9/24	at Cincinnati	1:00
10/1	LOS ANG.	1:00
10/8	CLEVELAND	1:00
10/15	at San Fran.	1:00
10/22	at L.A.	1:00
10/29	N.Y. GIANTS	1:00
11/5	at Pittsburgh	1:00
11/12	ATLANTA	1:00
11/19	at Dallas	1:00
11/26	at Atlanta	1:00
12/3	SAN FRAN.	1:00
12/10	HOUSTON	1:00
12/17	at Tampa Bay	1:00

1977 Results		
9/18	G. B. (+7)	20-24
9/25	at Detroit (-6)	19-23
10/2	at Chicago (-9)	42-24
10/9	S. D. (P'K)	0-14
10/16	at L. A. (+11½)	7-14
10/23	at St. Lou. (-10)	31-49
10/30	L. A. (-8)	27-26
11/6	at Phila. (-3)	7-28
11/13	S. F. (-2)*	7-10
11/20	ATLAN. (-3½)	21-20
11/27	at S. F. (-3½)	17-20
12/4	JETS (+4½)	13-16
12/11	T. B. (+11½)	14-33
12/18	at Atlanta (-6½)	7-35

*Overtime

After eleven years, five coaches and a staggering total of 110 regular season defeats, John Mecom Jr. and the still loyal fans of his New Orleans Saints find themselves on the threshold of yet another rebuilding program.

It wasn't until late in January that Hank Stram became the stunned final victim in pro football's incredible war of attrition that saw 10 of its head coaches dismissed. When John Mecom fired that closing shot, it marked the fifth time a Saint coach had been similarly de-cannonized.

Ironically, Dick Nolan, one of Stram's defensive assistants and the former head coach of the Forty-Niners, was Mecom's original choice when the Saints started phase one of their frustrating history. Eleven years later, Mecom finally got his man and Dick Nolan was happy to get a second chance.

With that opportunity comes one of the toughest schedules in the NFC, a slate that includes games against Dallas, Minnesota, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Houston and the annual series with the Rams, not to mention having to defense O.J. Simpson twice a season.

Unfortunately, Nolan has little defensive talent with which to work but Mecom is betting that Nolan will get more out of people like Greg Westbrooks, Joe Campbell, Derland Moore, and Tommy Myers than Stram and his staff were able to. Curious reasoning considering that Nolan was part of that staff.

There are similar problems with the offensive line and the receiving game. There just isn't enough talent to enable this team to even hope for the competitive level that the ownership foresees.

Nolan should keep in mind the fact that Mecom expected Stram's final team to be capable of a 10-4 record. It is going to be one hell of a challenge to match the club's best ever record of five wins let alone being successful enough to satisfy that kind of ownership demand.

QUARTERBACK: Archie Manning proved to be injury prone once again. This time he missed over a month's worth of work because of persistent ankle problems and to make matters even worse, he finished the dismal 1977 campaign with a broken jaw. Consequently, the Saints were reported to be anxious to unload their red-headed scrambler but their demands were thought to be rather excessive. Manning's absence caused further problems because of Stram's fondness for Bobby Douglass. Fortunately for Nolan, he won't have to worry about the latter. Instead, Nolan will be seeking a way to keep Bobby Scott from suffering the same kind of injuries that have plagued Manning.

GRADE C

RUNNING BACK: Chuck Muncie may be too elusive for his own free spirited good. Muncie is gifted with tremendous athletic talent and if he were to play up to that potential, would surely be a 1,000-yard runner. Unfortunately, Muncie doesn't like to practice and he seems bent on spending his career marching to a different drummer. Still, Nolan thinks he can succeed where Stram failed. Tony Galbreath is a competent big back who runs, blocks and catches with a great deal of skill. Mike Strachan needs to play more and Saints would probably be better off trading Muncie for additional help and letting Galbreath and Strachan do most of the work.

GRADE B+

RECEIVERS: Stram's offensive designs were handicapped by lack of outside speed as Don Hermann, Rich Mauti, John Gilliam and an injured Larry Burton were not the answer. Saints are close to giving up on former number one pick Burton who has trouble putting together two good games. TE Henry Childs enjoyed a superb season and proved to be a fine blocker as well as a clutch receiver. James Thaxton provides bulk and some skill as back-up. Club dearly needs someone with skills of Wesley Chandler to give passing attack legitimate deep threat. Addition of Cardinal ace Ike Harris should help somewhat.

GRADE C-

OFFENSIVE LINE: Problems with pass protection hurt Dick Stanfel's unit early in the season. Emanuel Zanders is a professional caliber guard and the additon of Pro Bowler Conrad Dobler from the Cardinals in what could be an excellent trade for the Saints, should strengthen the interior line. John Hill returns at center and will remain ahead of the disappointing Lee Gross whose ability to snap for punts is the main reason why he's still in the league. Donny Morrison is an adequate enough tackle, but Marv Montgomery has yet to come all the way back from the knee surgery that cut short a promising career with the Broncos. Team's major need is still a quality OT and such help will have to come from the draft or through another trade.

GRADE C+

DEFENSIVE LINE: The strength of a shockingly weak defense that was at times tough to move the ball against. However, Saints finished last in NFC against the run and will need to improve accordingly to stay competitive. Top draft picks Joe Campbell and Mike Fultz were worked into the starting lineup slowly and will still need considerable seasoning. Nolan may opt to return to flex alignments he pioneered at Dallas and San Francisco. With Bob Pollard shipped to the Cardinals in the Dobler Trade, Derland Moore and Elois Grooms will battle for tackle spots. Elex Prince good on pass rush but not consistent enough to suit Nolan.

GRADE B

LINEBACKERS: Injuries hurt here. Number three pick Robert Watts was plagued with back problems and is considered a fine prospect but injury prone. Greg Westbrooks, termed a possilbe all-pro in the summer, was hurt and seemingly in the doghouse when he got well. Joe Federspeil is fine MLB whose effort slipped somewhat at times, but Nolan will see to it that Federspiel's skill is marshalled correctly. Jim Merlo is barely adequate on the other side. Depth needed here as well.

GRADE C-

SECONDARY: Loss of Maurice Spencer with neck problems really hurt overall effectiveness of this unit. Spencer, a ball-hawking cornerback known for his ability to tackle, is a question mark because of the severity of his injury. If he can come back, Saints deep pass defense would be strengthened quite a bit. Clarence Chapman, a former Raider, fillied in well enough for Spencer but was prone to making costly mistakes. Ernie Jackson tough hitter and aggressive cover guy. Tommy Myers hurt too much and Chuck Crist not the answer. Craig Cassady and Jimmy Stewart may help if given the opportunity.

GRADE D

KICKING GAME: Rich Szaro overrated. Not a pressure-proof kicker. Tom Blanchard picks the worst times to be

inconsistent. Specialty teams were horrible early in the season and just average when playing their best games. Saints should never have cut Bobby Hammond. Rich Mauti sure-handed kick-returner.

GRADE D

COACHING: Nolan is recognized as fine defensive strategist who relishes every aspect of on-the-field coaching. He has kept Dick Stanfel and Whitey Campbell from Stram's staff and has added Tom Pratt, Ed Beard and Paul Wiggin to handle the remainder of the defensive chores. It will be interesting to see how Nolan handles the challenge of working for Mecom.

GRADE C

FRONT OFFICE: Eddie Jones, formerly the business manager of the team, and Harry Hulms, the former vice president of administration, were given more authority when the coaching change was effected. Jones is a tight-fisted accountant with a reputation of being fair minded and goal-oriented. Harry Hulmes knows talent and will prove to be a excellent personnel director. Bob Whitman does well enough on the college side while Ernie Hefferle is respected for his knowledge of the pro scene. Nolan, unlike Stram, expects to utilize all of the above expertise to the fullest, and if Mecom, the owner, can separate himself from Mecom the fan, the Saints newest rebuilding program might just be starting on the right track.

GRADE C+

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS-INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Chuck Muncie	201	811	4.0	36	6

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Chuck Crist	4	6	1.5	6	0

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Rich Mauti	37	10	281	7.6	33	0

PASSING	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	% INT
A. Manning	205	113	55.1	1284	8	9	4.4

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Tony Galbreath	41	265	6.5	30	0

KICK-OFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Clarence Chapman	15	385	25.7	92	1

PUNTING	NO	LG	AVG	NET AVG
Tom Blanchard	82	66	42.4	31.5

SCORING	TD	TDR	TDP	PTS
Henry Childs	9	0	9	54

QB Archie Manning ponders an injury-free season.

PREDICTION: Tough schedule figures to play decisive role in Nolan's Saintly debut. However, Nolan will be accorded high marks if team manages to win five or six games. Same mark turned in by Stram would have still gotten the mentor fired. Saints have too many obvious personnel needs to vacate the NFC West cellar.

1978 Veterans' Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Exp.	Birth-date	College	Games in '77
16	Blanchard, Tom	P	6-0/180	8	5/28/49	Oregon	14
50	Bordelon, Ken	LB	6-4/226	3	8/26/54	Louisiana St.	14
25	Borsage, Wade	S	5-11/175	2	9/14/55	Tulsa	*10
36	Boykin, Greg	RB	6-0/225	2	12/8/53	Northwestern	14
80	Burton, Larry	WR	6-1/193	3	12/15/51	Purdue	*1
73	Campbell, Joe	DE	6-6/254	2	5/8/55	Maryland	14
23	Cassady, Craig	S	5-11/175	2	12/21/53	Ohio State	12
24	Chapman, C.	CB	5-10/185	3	12/10/53	Ea. Michigan	14
85	Childs, Henry	TE	6-2/220	5	4/16/51	Kansas St.	13
44	†Crist, Chuck	S	6-2/205	7	1/16/51	Penn State	14
66	Dalton, Oakley	DT	6-6/295	1	7/18/52	Jackson St.	1
	Dobler, Conrad	G	6-0/255	7	10/1/50	Wyoming	*14
58	Federspiel, J.	LB	6-2/230	7	5/6/50	Kentucky	14
72	Fultz, Mike	DT	6-5/278	2	1/28/54	Nebraska	12
34	Galbreath, Tony	RB	6-1/230	3	1/29/54	Missouri	14
41	†Gilliam, John	WR	6-1/187	12	8/7/45	So. Car. St.	*10
78	Grooms, Elois	DE	6-4/250	4	5/20/53	Tenn. Tech	14
56	Gross, Lee	C	6-3/235	4	7/29/53	Auburn	9
	Harris, Ike	WR	6-3/205	4	11/27/52	Iowa State	*14
87	Herrmann, Don	WR	6-2/193	10	6/5/47	Waynesburg	13
62	Hill, John	C	6-2/246	7	4/16/50	Lehigh	14
70	Hubbard, Dave	T	6-7/270	2	9/29/55	BYU	5
54	†Hughes, Pat	LB	6-2/225	9	6/2/47	Boston	14
30	Jackson, Ernie	CB	5-9/176	7	4/11/50	Duke	11
32	Jones, Kim	RB	6-4/253	3	1/19/52	Colorado St.	14
53	Kingrea, Rick	LB	6-1/222	8	7/18/49	Tulane	14
64	Lafary, Dave	T	6-7/280	2	1/13/55	Purdue	10
8	Manning, Archie	QB	6-3/200	8	5/19/49	Mississippi	10
40	†Marsalis, Jim	S	5-11/190	9	10/10/45	Tenn. St.	12
84	Mauti, Rich	WR-PR	6-0/190	2	5/25/54	Penn State	14
57	Merlo, Jim	LB	6-1/220	5	10/3/51	Stanford	14
77	Montgomery, M.	T	6-6/255	8	2/8/48	USC	14
74	Moore, Derland	DT	6-4/253	6	10/7/51	Oklahoma	10
76	Morrison, D.	T	6-5/250	7	12/16/49	Tex.-Arlington	14
42	Muncie, Chuck	RB	6-3/220	3	3/17/53	California	14
37	Myers, Tom	S	6-0/180	7	10/24/50	Syracuse	12
	Neal, Richard	DE	6-3/263	10	9/2/47	Southern	*14
83	Owens, Tinker	WR	5-11/170	2	10/3/54	Oklahoma	*0
88	†Parker, Joel	WR	6-5/215	3	5/23/52	Florida	*1
75	Price, Elex	DT	6-3/265	6	8/11/50	Alcorn St.	11
71	Schumacher, K.	G	6-3/246	4	12/26/52	Ohio State	14
12	Scott, Bobby	QB	6-1/197	7	4/2/49	Tennessee	5
29	Spencer, Maurice	CB	6-0/176	4	6/16/52	No. Car. Cent.	*0
26	Stewart, Jimmy	S	5-11/190	2	10/15/54	Tulsa	9
33	Strachan, Mike	RB	6-0/200	4	5/24/53	Iowa State	13
15	Szaro, Rich	K	5-11/204	4	3/7/48	Harvard	14
86	Thaxton, James	TE	6-3/242	5	1/11/49	Tenn. St.	14
67	Watson, John	T	6-4/244	8	1/11/49	Oklahoma	*5
60	Westbrooks, G.	LB	6-3/217	4	2/24/53	Colorado	7
65	Woods, Robert	G-T	6-4/259	6	7/26/50	Tenn. St.	*6
79	Zanders, Emanuel	G	6-1/248	5	7/31/51	Jackson St.	14

*Dobler and Harris were traded from St. Louis where they played in 14 games; Neal was traded from the N.Y. Jets where he played in 14 games; Burton was active for 3 games; Owens inactive for 2 games before being placed on injured reserve; Spencer missed entire '77 season with injury; Watson played in 5 games before missing remainder of season with injury. Bosarge also played 5 games for Miami in '77. Gilliam also played 2 games for Chicago in '77. Woods also played 2 games for N.Y. Jets in '77.
†Option playout; subject to developments.

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL
THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Dan Devine savors ND's National Championship.

BY SCOTT DAVIDSON

In South Bend, certainly, it was a vintage year, In fact, it was positively Devine. The crop bloomed later than usual, but reached maturity at just the right time, and after the shouting was over and all the votes had been counted Notre Dame could savor the sweet taste of another National Championship.

This was no ordinary Notre Dame team—this fiesty group that bucked the odds to turn Texas Cotton whites the color of leprechaun green. The Fighting Irish were ranked near or at the top of most major pre-season polls, but after a dismal defeat at Mississippi, there seemed little chance that Notre Dame would live up to such early optimism. In fact, it was reported nearly everywhere that coach Dan Devine was in serious trouble and that only miracle could stay the executioner's axe.

So Dan Devine went looking for a miracle and found one in Montana. That's Joe Montana, the quarterback who could always throw but somehow couldn't always win. This time Montana put it all together. He consistently hit All-America tight end Ken MacAfee with timely aerials, opening up the running game for Jerome Heavens. The Irish began to jell.

If there was a turning point for Notre Dame, it surely was the USC game. Outfitted in kelly green, Irish swamped the then-No. 1 Trojans, 49-19. Notre Dame went on a tear after that. Navy was drowned, 43-10, Georgia Tech wrecked, 69-14 and Air Froce grounded, 49-0. There was a letdown against tough and surprising Clemson, but the Irish escaped from "Deaf Valley" with a 21-17 decision. Notre Dame finished up the regular campaign by throttling Miami and then accepted a Cotton Bowl bid to meet undefeated and top-ranked Texas. The game was never close and the Irish won 38-10.

On looking back, it can be said that the Irish may have won the title in Game No. 1 when they beat defending champion Pittsburgh. It was an odd year indeed for the former champs. Many observers predicted little for the Panthers, what with Tony Dorsett, the Heisman Trophy winner and Johnny Majors, Coach of the Year, off to greener (for Dorsett) and more challenging (for Majors) pastures. But Pittsburgh was just a broken wrist and a few inches removed from another undefeated season.

Matt Cavanaugh, who was later to dazzle a Gator Bowl throng with his aerial wizardry, had the Irish on the ropes in the first half before a wrist injury sent him to the sidelines. With Cavanaugh out of action, Notre Dame was able to storm back for a 19-9 victory.

Pittsburgh ran off a string of victories against lesser company after that but could only gain a tie in Florida's home den. Cavanaugh played but was not yet 100 percent.

The Panthers' only other loss was to arch-rival Penn State in a snow storm. A two point conversion attempt that would have tied the score missed by inches and Pitt wound up on the short end of a 15-13 verdict.

Pittsburgh rooters will insist—with some merit-that the Panthers were only a broken wrist and a snowstorm away from another National Championship. Still, 9-2-1 is not too shabby and the Panthers have no apologies to make.

Speaking of Eastern powerhouses, Penn State enjoyed another typical satisfying season as the "Pride of the East." Joe Paterno's band lost but once, to top-notch Kentucky, and ended the season with a brilliant 11-1 mark.

Besides Notre Dame, Pittsburgh and Penn State, a trio of top ten clubs at season's end, a couple of other independents had outstanding years. Florida State dispelled all doubts of a soft schedule when it shell-shocked Texas Tech in the Tangerine Bowl to finish at 10-2 while San Diego State went 10-1 and uninvited. Colgate was another independent goody, running off 10 straight tallies before Delaware ended the Red Raiders' dream of perfection.

What Might Have Been

In the Southeastern Conference it was the year of what might have been. Alabama went undefeated in conference play and lost just once overall, but so did Kentucky. The problem with the Wildcats was that they were caught with their paws in the recruiting cookie jar and placed on probation, making them ineligible for a conference championship or a bowl invitation.

What a pity! Alabama and Kentucky, despite being in the same conference, did not meet, but the Sugar Bowl would have provided a perfect audience to settle deep south dominance. As it is, we will always have to wonder what would have happened had these two titans met.

Bama lost but once, on the road to always-tough Nebraska, while the Wildcats were surprised in Waco by the Baylor Bears. Otherwise, both had significant team and individual achievements. Alabama defeated USC on the coast in a thriller and was impressive in most SEC encounters. Tony Nathan and Johnny Davis did yeoman-like work on the ground while Ozzie Newsome caught nearly everything he touched.

Kentucky highlights included beating Penn State, North Carolina and LSU. Derrick Ramsey controlled the offense while Art Still headed a defense that was among the most stingy and brutal in the nation.

The SEC also sent LSU to the Sun Bowl but Charles Alexander's runs couldn't keep pace with the passes of Stanford's Guy Benjamin and the Bengals lost.

Over in the Southewest Conference, there was a reversal to more traditional command. It wasn't really a mutiny, just a reassignment of sorts. Anyway, Texas Tech and Texas A&M wound up disappointing, Houston was riddled with injuries, and guess what happened? Texas and Arkansas, those two teams that always seemed to be at the top, moved right back to the top.

First the bad news. Texas Tech lost quarterback Rodney Allison with an injury but couldn't win the big ones even when he returned. The Aggies, meanwhile, had no success against either Texas or Arkansas and settled for a Bluebonnet Bowl berth opposite surprising PAC-8 also ran, USC. The season ended on a somber note when the Trojans bloodied Emery Bellard's usually impregnable defense for a 47-28 victory.

Houston's problems began with a rash of injuries, accentuated by the loss of quarterback Danny Davis. The Cougars were never a factor in the SWC race.

Actually, the SWC race was decided early when Texas nipped Arkansas 13-9. From there on the Razorbacks didn't lose and surrendered points with great reluctance. However, Texas did no losing, either. The Longhorns seemed invincible-then came Notre Dame. Texas runningback Earl Campbell, brilliant all year, saved some grace by winning the Heisman Trophy.

Whereas Texas floundered in the Cotton Bowl, Arkansas flourished in the Orange Bowl, dismantling the Oklahoma wishbone and earning coach Lou Holtz several Coach of the Year honors. Holtz had only to look to Texas to see who was receiving the other votes. Fred Akers, head man behind the Longhorn resurgence.

While the SWC did send four teams to bowls (Texas, Arkansas, Texas Tech and Texas A&M) only Arkansas was a winner.

Bowl Batterings

Another conference that did miserably in bowls was the Big Ten. Michigan, climactic winner over Ohio State in Ann Arbor, earned the Rose Bowl bid for the second straight year but Bo Schembechler's troops were surprised by an emotionally high Washington Huskie squad.

Ohio State, meanwhile, accepted a Sugar Bowl invitation, delighting the media which made much of the Bear Bryant-Woody Hayes matchup. Good thing, too, because there was little else to compare between the two teams as the Crimson Tide won easily and impressively, 35-6.

If those twin embarrassments weren't bad enough, Minnesota also went to a bowl-the neophyte Hall of Fame Classic—and lost to Maryland 17-7.

If the Big Ten was embarrassed, so was the Big Eight. Oklahoma earned the Oranges but was squeezed into pulp by Arkansas. Iowa State found the Peach Bowl against North Carolina State a bowl of pits, 24-14; and Nebraska had to stage a fourth quarter rally to overcome North Carolina in the Liberty Bowl, 21-17.

The Big Eight's highlight was the national TV thriller in which Oklahoma edged Ohio State, 29-28. The Sooners climbed to the top of the polls with that triumph, but were victimized by Texas shortly thereafter.

Despite uncharacteristic bowl lapses, the Big Eight produced its share of excitement and top individual performances. Terry Miller was rock-like in a losing campaign with Oklahoma State while Dexter Green overcame his slight size to make first-team All Big Eight for Iowa State. Nebraska uncovered flashy I.M. Hipp, and the Oklahoma backfield of Tom Lott, Kenny King, Elvis Peacock and Billy Sims ran amok.

There was a change of guard in the PAC-Eight when USC spoiled UCLA's Rose Bowl intentions allowing Washington to make the trip to Pasadena. The PAC-Eight race was hot all year and two weeks before season's end, there were still a myriad of possibilities as to which team would win it all. Things should be even woolier this year when Arizona and Arizona State swell the PAC-Eight into the PAC-Ten.

Guy Benjamin made most All-America squads, representing Stanford, while the conference had its usual fill of outstanding linemen, linebackers and defensive backs.

Let's Hear It For Clemson

Perhaps the biggest surprises were in the Atlantic Coast Conference. Maryland proved anything but invincible and Clemson was anything but a conference doormat in a remarkable turnaround. The Terrapins lost the conference title to a fine North Carolina team but maintained ACC integrity by whipping Minnesota in the Hall of Fame Classic.

The Tar Heels played well in losing the Liberty Bowl to Nebraska and North Carolina was a pleasant surprise, beating Iowa State in the Peach Bowl. But the real story was Clemson.

Charley Pell's forces lost a season's opener to Maryland but then ran off a string of triumphs before being knotted by North Carolina. The Tigers had Notre Dame reeling before the Irish rallied to escape with a slender 21-17 win. And the Gator Bowl defeat to Pittsburgh hardly negated the season long accomplishments of Clemson which rose from 3-6-2 in 1976 to 8-3-1 last year.

In all, the ACC sent four teams to bowls (as many as the SWC) and two of them won. The theory that ACC football is somehow a notch below the other major loops no longer holds water.

In the Ivy League, Yale had to win on the final weekend to take the title from Brown while Miami (Ohio) claimed the Mid America crown.

Arizona State regained the Western Athletic title and Brigham Young found out that Marc Wilson was a lot more than just Gifford Nielsen's replacement. Filling in for the injured Nielsen, Wilson established several aerial marks of his own.

1977 also saw the nation's longest losing streak come to an end when TCU finally won, and that was something new. Woody Hayes kicked a cameraman, again.

That wasn't so new.

Bob Rowland helped Washington win Rose Bowl.

TOP TEN

1. - Oklahoma
2 - Alabama
3 - Notre Dame
4 - Texas
5 - Penn State
6 - Arkansas
7 - Ohio State
8 - Michigan
9 - UCLA
10- North Carolina

The More SOONERS, TIDE,

The more things change, the more they stay the same. Such is the case when one surveys the nation's top college football teams.

Although graduation results in countless roster changes from year to year, superior teams are able to maintain their advantage since the majority of outstanding high school players opt for the "powerhouses" and "name schools," where media publicity can reap lucrative contracts when it's time to turn professional. A never-ending cycle of the best receiving the best has become commonplace.

All of which means that most of the tough clubs from 1977 will be center stage again in 1978. It might become a bit repetitious to the followers of the college gridiron scene, but as far as the leading schools are concerned, any deviation from the norm is intolerable.

Last season Notre Dame finished atop the rankings, but FOOTBALL ACTION is projecting Oklahoma to be the best of the herd in '78. The Sooners lost twice last season, but with a multitude of returning stars, Barry Switzer's squad should shine the brightest.

Alabama, Notre Dame, Texas, and Penn State (familiar-sounding names, you say?) round out the top five, with Arkansas, Ohio State, Michigan, UCLA, and North Carolina being slated for the six through ten positions. (Remember, the similarities between '78's top teams and 77's cream of the crop are not purely coincidental.)

Dynamite OU Backfield

Oklahoma has won the national title twice in the past five years, so why argue with proven excellence? The backfield is again a stockpile of TNT, with Tom Lott, Kenny King, Billy Sims, and David Overstreet doing the detonating. Linebackers George Cumby and Daryl Hunt and middle guard Reggie Kinlaw are exceptional defenders. The schedule is diffucult, with worthy Big Eight opponents and the traditional encounter against Texas in the Cotton Bowl. The Sooners were defeated by the Aggies, 13-6, in '77, but will gain revenge, and the national crown, this time around.

The Crimson Tide of Alabama ought to make plenty of waves in the Southeastern Conference. Bear Bryant will miss Ozzie Newsome and Johnny Davis on offense, but quarterback Jeff Rutledge directs an attack that will score more than enough. The sturdy defense has seven returning starters, and when you consider the fact the rest of the conference looks fairly shoddy, if the Tide can defeat Nebraska and USC in Birmingham, Bear might be growling that his club is number one.

Much-malighed Dan Devine had the last laugh when his Fighting Irish thoroughly whipped Texas in the Cotton Bowl to earn the top spot in the polls last season. And Dan might be laughing when the upcoming season finally concludes next January. Devine hopes his overwhelming offense (382 points and just under 500 yds. per game in '77) can compensate for a defense that could be in trouble. The latter outfit last several outstanding individuals (Browner, Fry and Bradley), but if they can be replaced, Irish eyes and fans might be smiling again.

FB Kenny King supplies power to Okie wishbone.

Everyone neglected to mention Texas when powerhouses were being discussed during the summer months a year ago. But after Fred Akers and company turned in an 11-1 mark, the Longhorns won't be slighted this season. Sure, Heisman winner Earl Campbell and Outland recipient Brad Shearer have graduated, but nine starters return from a defense which held Oklahoma and Arkansas touchdownless in '77. The outlook from here is that the 'Horns will nip the Razorbacks while bowing to the Sooners, and thus, are not being tabbed for the top ranking.

Joe Paterno usually keeps a low-key approach, so when he said that he feels he has an "outstanding squad" this year, it could spell a heap of trouble for those getting in the way of his Nittany Lions. A four-point loss to Kentucky was

Things Change . . .

IRISH EYE NO.1

Joe Restic is leading thief of sticky Irish secondary.

the only blemish on their mark last year, and Paterno thinks this team is even better. An early-season road game against Ohio State will be pivotal, and the passing (which Big Ten schools seem to have trouble coping with) of Chuck Fusina should spell the difference in that showdown. Eastern football has been downgraded in recent years, but Pittsburgh was the best in 1976 and the Nittaby Lions might bring back another crown for the state of Pennsylvania if too many teams falter, because they probably won't.

Holtz' Hogs Are Tough

Lou Holtz knew what he was doing when he jetted out of New York and pro football and returned to Arkansas and the college arena. Holtz' Razorbacks had a sensational season, climaxed by a thrashing of Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl. The return of 17 starters and 42 lettermen should make Holtz optimistic, but he has his reservations. The Hogs might be as disappointing in '78 as they were surprising last year, Holtz reasons. But we don't buy that type of thinking and foresee another successful showing, with the only sore spot that game against Texas in the Cotton Bowl.

Next up, Ohio State and Michigan. It's hard to talk about one without the other. Their annual showdown match invariably decides the Big Ten winner, and the right to lose in the Rose Bowl to a passing team from the Pac-8, which is now the Pac-10. Anyway, both Woody and Bo have their basic destructive infantry and artillery all geared up for another campaign, but they meet some stiff opposition along the way.

The Buckeyes will be severely tested by Penn State, while Michigan must travel to South Bend and invade the Irish. Losses in those contests will spoil OSU's and Michigan's records, and in the process, knock them out of the top five. Since Columbus, Ohio is the sight for the yearly grudge match, we'll give the Buckeyes the edge in that tussle, leaving them slightly ahead in the ratings.

Terry Donahue and his band of UCLA Bruins appear Pasadena-bound come New Year's Day, 1979. The return of QB Rick Bashore and running backs James Owens and Theotis Brown ignite the offense, and linebacker Jerry Robinson is the central defensive character. The opening and closing games (Washington and USC, respectively) will be the tell-tale point for the Uclans.

A new coaching staff now controls the situation at North Carolina, but the Tar Heels will remain one of the country's toughest outfits. Head man Dick Crum is the new mentor and he is blessed with a tenacious defensive outfit. The offense is not to be taken lightly either, and the Tar Heels seem set in practically all phases of the game. They should stake claim to another Atlantic Coast Conference.

Clemson Was a Surprise

The above ten teams look like the class of the nation, but upsets and surprises inevitably play a major role during the course of a four-month season. For example, Clemson rose from the lower depths of obscurity and proved to be an ambitious squad. Charley Pell's Tigers registered an 8-3-1 mark last year and will be no pushovers again.

Another ACC team that demands respect is North Carolina State. The Wolfpack came on strongly at the end of last season, and will be a menacing force again.

Washington surprised in the Rose Bowl, and even with quarterback Warren Moon graduated, the Huskies are legitimate contenders for another excursion to Pasadena.

The Trojans of USC always give a strong account of themselves and this year should be no exception. John Robinson has some few problems to resolve, but the Trojans' chances cannot be discounted.

Nebraska and Colorado suffer from the misfortune of being grouped with Oklahoma, and as a result, usually are forced to the background when conference honors are awarded. Nevertheless, the Cornhuskers, with the flashy I.M. Hipp (are you?), and Buffaloes are always right in the thick of the battle.

The Western Athletic Conference offers a free-wheeling, wide-open brand of ball and Brigham Young has the most firepower here. Cougar quarterback sensation Marc Wilson will pass opponents silly and might fling BYU into national prominence.

The Southwest Conference might have a sleeper in Texas A & M. The Aggies' sophomore quarterback Mark Mosley is being touted as one of the game's up-and-coming standouts. If Mosley lives up to his clippings, Emory Bellard will be one happy coach.

Michigan State has had to take a backseat to Ohio State and Michigan, but the Spartans have a very formidable contingent and don't be too shocked if they nuzzle their way near the top.

Pittsburgh has lost a lot the past two years, but the Panthers still pack a lot of punch and Jackie Sherrill's troops will be better than average. The same can be said for Bobby Bowden and his clan of Seminoles from Florida State.

When college athletes take the field of combat, the unexpected may occur. The emotional factor plays an important part in determining winners and losers. Nevertheless, in recent seasons there have been certain teams who have performed true to form, and that should be the case for the '78 carnival which will be here before you realize it.

DRAFT 1978:

Some Stars Left Out in the Cold

New York-National Football League clubs zipped through the final stages of the shortest draft in league history, making two key trades and leaving a number of highly touted college stars scratching their heads.

The 28 clubs completed the final six rounds of the 12-round draft and the 17 hour, 16-minute total for the two days marked the draft as the shortest ever by more than two hours.

The only deals of consequence involved two veteran defensive linemen.

The Pittsburgh Steelers dealt tackle Ernie Holmes, who had been on the block for the past couple of seasons after twice having problems with police, to Tampa Bay for two low round draft choices. Kansas City sent veteran end Wilbur Young to San Diego for third-year wide receiver Larry Dorsey.

A number of college stars were left unpicked after the clubs finished selecting 334 players, two short of the 336 limit agreed upon in the NFL contract.

Boston College quarterback Ken Smith, who completed 58 percent of his passes last season and ranked third in NCAA statistics with an average of 16.6 completions per game, went untaken, along with Yale running back John Pagliaro, who was fifth in the nation in rushing.

Also, Southern California wide receiver Randy Simmrin, Maryland defensive tackle Ernie Salley and All America defensive back Zac Henderson were not taken.

The most popular college for the NFL clubs this season was Florida, which had 10 players selected. Five schools — Notre Dame, Pittsburgh, Nebraska, Southern California and Washington State — had eight each taken and Tennessee State and Penn State had seven each picked.

The Southeastern Conference was the leader with 36 players chosen, two more than the Pacific Eight.

Despire the fact that a number of highly regarded athletes were grabbed off quickly when the clubs started on the seventh round, there were quite a few big names who had to wait until the closing stages before being selected.

Atlanta took Texas wide receiver Alfred Jackson to open the second day's selections, Kansas City took Southern California defensive back Ricky Odom and the New York Jets selected UCLA devensive back Levi Armstrong.

Baltimore also took Ohio State running back Jeff Logan on the seventh round and Green Bay chose Arizona quarterback Dennis Sproul on the eighth. But some of the big names had to wait as late as the last two rounds before being picked.

Randy Simmrin went unclaimed.

All-America guard Mark Donahue of Michigan went to Cincinnati, Pittsburgh All-America guard Tom Brzoza went to Pittsburgh and Southern California All-America defensive back Dennis Thurman went to Dallas on the 11th round.

On the final round, Texas Tech star guard Dan Irons went to San Francisco and Maryland linebacker Brad Carr went to Pittsburgh.

Bruce Allen, a punter from Richmond and the son of Los Angeles Coach George Allen, was taken by Baltimore on the final round. The draft ended with the selection of Montana State offensive lineman Lee Washburn by Dallas.

Also selected were Bill Swiacki, a tight end from Amherst and the son of former New York Giant Bill Swiacki, by the Giants, and center Willie Brock of Colorado, the brother of New England center Pete Brock.

There were 180 offensive players taken, 140 defensive and 14 specialists. The leading positions on offense were running back (44) and wide receiver (41) while the top defensive position was in the secondary, where 50 backs were taken.

ATLANTA

1.	Kenn, Mike	T	Michigan
2.	Stewart, Steve	LB	Minnesota
3.	Waldemore, Stan	G	Nebraska
4.	Cabral, Brian	LB	Colorado
5.	Pearson, Dennis	WR	San Diego St.
6.	Parker, Rodney	WR	Tenn. State
7.	Jackson, Alfred	WR	Texas
	from Tampa		
	Wright, James	TE	Texas Chris.
8.	Adkins, David	LB	Ohio State
	Williams, David	DB	Tenn.-Martin
	from Washington		
9.	Pridemore, Tom	DB	West Virginia
10.	Patton, Ricky	RB	Jackson State
	from Philadelphia		
	Strong, Ray	RB	Nev.-L. Vegas
11.	Reed, Milton	DB	Baylor
12.	Butler, Daria	LB	Oklahoma St.

BALTIMORE COLTS

1.	McCall, Reese	TE	Auburn
2.	Woods, Mike	LB	Cincinnati
3.	Choice to San Francisco		
4.	Choice to Detroit		
5.	Myers, Frank	T	Texas A&M
	from San Francisco		
	Choice to Kansas City		
6.	Garry, Ben	RB	So. Mississippi
7.	Logan, Jeff	RB	Ohio State
8.	Anthony, Monte	RB	Nebraska
9.	Studdard, Dave	T	Texas
10.	Owens, Dallas	DB	Kentucky
11.	Mason, Henry	WR	Central Mo.
12.	Allen, Bruce	P	Richmond

BUFFALO BILLS

1.	Miller, Terry	RB	Okla. State
2.	Hardison, Dee	DE	North Carolina
	Hutchinson, Scott	DE	Florida
	from San Francisco		
3.	Johnson, Dennis	RB	Mississippi St.
	from San Francisco		
4.	Sanford, Lucius	LB	Georgia Tech
5.	Spaeth, Ken	TE	Nebraska
6.	Choice to New York Jets		
	Smith, Eric	T	So. Mississippi
	from Philadelphia		
7.	Celotto, Mario	LB	So. California
	Powell, Steve	RB	N.E. Missouri
	from Houston		
8.	Choice to New Eng. thru Phila.		
9.	Choice to New York Jets		
10.	Grant, Will	C	Kentucky
11.	Blanton, Jerry	LB	Kentucky
12.	Crump, Richard	RB	N.E. Okla.

CHICAGO BEARS

1.	Choice to Los Angeles thru Cleveland		
2.	Choice to San Francisco		
3.	Shearer, Brad	DT	Texas
4.	Choice to Kansas City		
5.	Choice to Cincinnati		
6.	Skibinski, John	RB	Purdue
	from Kansas City		
	Ieremia, Mekeli	DE	Brigham Yg.
7.	Jones, Herman	WR	Ohio State
8.	Freitas, George	TE	California
9.	Martin, Mike	LB	Kentucky
10.	Zambiasi, Ben	LB	Georgia
11.	Underwood, Walt	DE	So. California
12.	Sibley, Lew	LB	LSU

CINCINNATI BEARS

1.	Browner, Ross	DT	Notre Dame
	from Philadelphia		
	Bush, Blair	C	Washington
2.	Griffin, Ray	DB	Ohio State
	from Philadelphia		
	Turner, Dave	RB	San Diego St.
3.	Vincent, Ted	DT	Wichita State
	Bass, Don	WR	Houston
	from Denver		
4.	Law, Dennis	WR	E. Tennessee
5.	Dinkel, Tom	LB	Kansas
	Hertel, Rob	RB	So. California
	from Chicago		
6.	Gejse, Steve	RB	Penn State
7.	Branson, Joe	DB	Livingstone

	Bass, Dan	G	Elon
	from Denver		
8.	Miller, Bill	T	W. Illinois
9.	Shumon, Ron	LB	Wichita St.
10.	DePaso, Tom	LB	Penn State
11.	Prince, Calvin	RB	Louisville
	from St. Louis		
	Donahue, Mark	G	Michigan
12.	Featsent, Kim	WR	Kent State

CLEVELAND BROWNS

1.	Matthews, Clay	LB	So. California
	Newsome, Ozzie	WR	Alabama
	from Los Angeles		
2.	Evans, Johnny	P-QB	No. Caro. St.
3.	Collins, Larry	RB	Texas A&I
	from Detroit		
	Miller, Mark	QB	Bowling Green
4.	Choice to Miami		
	Pullara, Pete	G	Tenn.-Chatt.
	from Washington thru Los Angeles		
5.	Wright, Keith	WR	Memphis St.
6.	Pitts, Al	C	Michigan St.
7.	Choice to Miami		
8.	Turnbow, Jesse	DT	Tennessee
9.	Kramer, Jon	G	Baylor
10.	Watson, Brent	T	Tennessee
11.	Gillard, Larry	DT	Mississippi
12.	Biedermann, Leo	T	California

DALLAS COWBOYS

1.	Bethea, Larry	DE	Michigan St.
2.	Christensen, Todd	RB	Brigham Yg.
3.	Hudgens, Dave	DT	Oklahoma
4.	Blackwell, Alois	RB	Houston
5.	Rosen, Rich	G	Syracuse
6.	Randolph, Harold	LB	E. Carolina
7.	Randall, Tom	DT-DE	Iowa State
8.	Butler, Homer	WR	UCLA
9.	Williams, Russ	DB	Tennessee
10.	Tomasetti, Barry	G	Iowa
11.	Thurman, Dennis	DB	So. California
12.	Washburn, Lee	G	Montana St.

DENVER BRONCOS

1.	Latimer, Don	DT	Miami
2.	Gay, Bill	TE	So. California
3.	Choice to Cincinnati		
4.	Choice to Detroit		
5.	Choice to New York Giants		
6.	Choice to Detroit		
7.	Choice to Cincinnati		
8.	Smith, Frank	T	Alabama A&M
9.	Choice to San Francisco		
10.	Kinney, Vince	WR	Maryland
11.	Brumley, Lacy	T	Clemson
12.	Choice to Miami		

DETROIT LIONS

1.	Bradley, Luther	DB	Notre Dame
2.	Baker, Al	DE	Colorado St.
3.	Choice to Cleveland		
4.	Fifer, William	T	W. Texas St.
	Elias, Homer	G	Tennessee St.
	from Baltimore		
	Tearry, Larry	C	Wake Forest
	from Denver		
5.	Fowler, Amos	G	So. Mississippi
	Gray, Dan	DE	Rutgers
	from San Diego		
6.	Hicks, Dwight	DB	Michigan
	Ardizzone, Tony	G	Northwestern
	from San Diego		
	Thompson, Jessee	WR	California
7.	Gibson, Bruce	RB	Pacific
8.	Breech, Jim	K	California
9.	Choice to San Francisco		
10.	Arrington, Fred	LB	Purdue
11.	Murray, Richard	DT	Oklahoma
12.	Patterson, Mark	DB	Wash. State

GREEN BAY PACKERS

1.	Lofton, James	WR	Stanford
	Anderson, John	LB	Michigan
	from Oakland		
2.	Hunt, Mike	LB	Minnesota
3.	Hood, Estus	DB	Illinois St.
4.	Choice forfeited		
5.	Douglass, Mike	LB	San Diego St.
	Wilder, Willie	RB	Florida
	from Pittsburgh		
6.	Harris, Leotis	G	Arkansas
7.	Plasketes, George	LB	Mississippi
8.	Sproul, Dennis	QB	ARizona St.
9	Myers, Keith	QB	Utah State
10.	Key, Larry	RB	Florida St.
	Totten, Mark	C	Florida
	from New York Giants		
11.	Jones, Terry	DT	Alabama
12.	Ramson, Eason	TE	Washington St.

HOUSTON OILERS

1.	Campbell, Earl	RB	Texas
	from Tampa Bay		
	Choice to Tampa Bay		
2.	Choice to Tampa Bay		
3.	Nielsen, Gifford	QB	Brigham Young
4.	Renfro, Mike	WR	Texas Christian
5.	Choice to San Fran. thru Kan. Ct. and Chi.		
6.	Ruckner, Conrad	TE	Southern U.
7.	Choice to Buffalo		
8.	Wilson, J.C.	DB	Pittsburgh
9.	Mol, Jim	DE	Morningside
10.	Young, Steve	TE	Wake Forest
11.	Thicklen, Willie	WR	Alabama St.
12.	Schuhmacher, John	G	So. California

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

1.	Still, Art	DE	Kentucky
2.	Hicks, Sylvester	DE	Tennessee St.
3.	Spani, Gary	LB	Kansas State
4.	Johnson, Danny	LB	Tennessee St.
	Woods, Pete	QB	Missouri
	from Chicago		
5.	McRae, Jerrold	WR	Tennessee St.
	Carey, Dwight	DT	Tex.-Arlington
	from Philadelphia		
	Woods, Robert	KR	Grambling
	from Baltimore		
6.	Choice to Chicago		
7.	Odom, Ricky	DB	So. California
	Kellar, Bill	WR	Stanford
	from Washington		
8.	White, John Henry	RB	Louisiana Tech
9.	Brown, Larry	T	Miami
10.	Bryant, Earl	DE	Jackson St.
11.	Milo, Ray	DB	New Mexico St.
12.	Brock, Willie	C	Colorado

LOS ANGELES RAMS

1.	Peacock, Elvis	RB	Oklahoma
	from Chicago thru Cleveland		
	Choice to Cleveland		
2.	Johnson, Stan	DT	Tennessee St.
	from Washington		
	Smith, Ronnie	WR	San Diego St.
3.	Corral, Frank	P	UCLA
	from Washington		
	White, Leon	C	Colorado
4.	Manges, Mark	QB	Maryland
5.	Choice to San Diego		
6.	Choice to Tampa Bay		
7.	Doss, Reggie	DE	Hampton
8.	Choice to Washington		
9.	Anderson, Andre	DE	New Mexico St.
10.	Peal, Charles	T	Indiana
11.	Hostetler, Ron	LB	Penn State
12.	Coppens, Gus	T	UCLA

MIAMI DOLPHINS

1.	Choice to San Francisco		
2.	Benjamin, Guy	QB	Stanford
3.	Smith, Lyman	DT	Duke
	from New York Giants		
	Cefalo, Jimmy	WR	Penn State
4.	Small, Gerald	DB	San Jose St.
	from Cleveland		
	Laakso, Eric	T	Tulane
5.	Burgmeier, Ted	DB	Notre Dame
	from Tampa Bay		
	Choice to San Francisco		
6.	Betters, Doug	DE	Nevada-Reno
7.	Baldischwiler, Karl	T	Oklahoma
	from Cleveland		
	Henry, Lloyd	WR	NE Missouri
8.	Clancy, Sean	LB	Amherst
9.	Hardy, Bruce	TE	Arizona St.
10.	Dennard, Mark	C	Texas A&M
11.	Choice to Seattle		
12.	Moore, Mike	RB	Middle Tenn.
	Kenny, Bill	QB	Northern Colo.
	from Denver		

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

1.	Holloway, Randy	DE	Pittsburgh
2.	Turner, John	DB	Miami
3.	Walton, Whip	LB	San Diego St.
4.	Hough, Jim	C	Utah State
5.	Choice to New York Giants		
6.	Choice to Washington thru San Francisco		
7.	Choice to Philadelphia		
8.	Wood, Mike	K	SE Missouri
	Choice to New York Jets		
9.	Deutsch, Mike	P	Colorado St.
10.	Shaw, Hughie	RB	Texas A&I
11.	Harris, Ron	RB	Colorado St.
12.	Morrow, Jeff	T	Minnesota

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

1.	Cryder, Bob	G	Alabama
2.	Cavanaugh, Matt	QB	Pittsburgh
3.	Pennywell, Carlos	WR	Grambling
4.	Wheeler, Dwight	T	Tennessee St.
5.	Matthews, Bill	LB	So. Dakota St.
6.	Coleman, Ken	LB	Mississippi
7.	Hawkins, Mike	LB	Texas A&I
8.	Falcon, Terry	G	Montana
	from Buffalo thru Philadelphia		
	Tatupu, Mosi	RB	So. California
9.	Petersen, Tim	LB	Arizona St.
10.	Ferguson, Bryan	DB	Miami
11.	Williams, Charlie	LB	Florida
12.	Gibney, John	C	Colgate

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

1.	Chandler, Wes	WR	Florida
2.	Taylor, James	T	Missouri
3.	Bennett, Barry	DT	Conc., Minn.
4.	Schwartz, Don	DB	Wash. St.
5.	Felton, Eric	DB	Texas Tech
6.	Rieker, Mike	QB	Lehigh
	Chesley, Francis	LB	Wyoming
	from Washington thru Houston		
7.	Choice to New York Jets		
8.	Williams, Brooks	TE	No. Carolina
9.	Carter, Richard	DB	No. Carolina St.
10.	Choice to New York Giants		
11.	Besaint, Nathan	DT	Southern U.
	Riley, Dave	RB	West Virginia
	from Seattle		
12.	Hardy, Larry	TE	Jackson St.

NEW YORK GIANTS

1.	King, Gordon	T	Stanford
2.	McKinney, Odis	DB	Colorado
3.	Choice to Miami		
4.	Taylor, Billy	RB	Texas Tech
5.	Jackson, Terry	DB	San Diego St.
	Krahl, Jim	DT	Texas Tech
	from Minnesota		
	DeRoo, Brian	WR	Redlands
	from Denver		
6.	Pass. Randy	G-C	Georgia Tech
7.	Doornink, Dan	RB	Washington St.
8.	Grady, Jeff	LB	Florida A&M
9.	Swiacki, Bill	TE	Amherst
10.	Jorgensen, Greg	G	Nebraska
	from New Orleans		
	Choice to Green Bay		
11.	Heim, Dennis	DT	SW Miss.
12.	Lawson, Greg	RB	Western Illinois

NEW YORK JETS

1.	Ward, Chris	T	Ohio State
2.	Merrill, Mark	LB	Minnesota
3.	Shuler, Mickey	TE	Penn State
4.	Donnell, Dodie	RB	Nebraska
5.	Sidler, Randy	LB	Penn State
6.	Jackson, Bobby	DB	Florida State
	from Buffalo		
	Robinson, George	DT	Dartmouth
7.	Armstrong, Levi	DB	UCLA
	from New Orleans		
8.	Gaffney, Derrick	WR	Florida
	Mock, Mike	P-LB	Texas Tech
	from Philadelphia		
	Eppes, Roy	DB	Clemson
	from Minnesota		
9.	Grant, Reggie	DB	Oregon
	from Buffalo		
	Hutton, Neil	DB	Penn State
10.	Richardson, Louis	DE	Florida State
11.	Ryan, Pat	QB	Tennessee
12.	Williams, Alan	P	Florida

OAKLAND RAIDERS

1.	Choice to Green Bay		
2.	Browning, Dave	DE	Washington
3.	Jensen, Derrick	RB	Texas-Arlington
	from Tampa Bay		
	Mason, Lindsey	T	Kansas
4.	Harvey, Maurice	DB	Ball State
	from Tampa Bay		
5.	Ramsey, Derrick	TE	Kentucky
6.	Davis, Tom	C	Nebraska
	Levenseller, Mike	WR	Washington St.
7.	Whittington, Arthur	RB	SMU
	from Philadelphia		
	Inman, Earl	LB	Bethune-Cook
8.	Nichols, Mark	DE	Colorado St.
	from San Diego		
	Choice to San Diego		
9.	Choice to San Diego		
10.	Choice to Pittsburgh through Tampa Bay		
11.	Jones, Dean	DB	Fresno State
	from San Diego		
	Glazebrook, Bob	DB	Fresno State
12.	Conron, Joe	WR	Pacific

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

1.	Choice to Cincinnati		
2.	Choice to Cincinnati		
3.	Wilkes, Reggie	LB	Georgia Tech
4.	Harrison, Dennis	DT	Vanderbilt
5.	Choice to Kansas City		
	Banks, Norris	RB	Kansas
	from Washington		
6.	Choice to Buffalo		
7.	Choice to Oakland		
	Marshall, Greg	DT	Oregon St.
	from Minnesota		
8.	Choice to New York Jets		
9.	Williams, Charles	DB	Jackson St.
10.	Choice to Atlanta		
11.	Campfield, Bill	RB	Kansas
12.	Slater, Mark	C	Minnesota

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

1.	Johnson, Ron	DB	E. Michigan
2.	Fry, Willie	DE	Notre Dame
3.	Colquitt, Craig	P	Tennessee
4.	Anderson, Larry	DB	Louisiana Tech.
5.	Choice to Green Bay		
6.	Reutershan, Randy	WR	Pittsburgh
7.	Du Fresne, Mark	TE	Nebraska
8.	Moser, Rich	RB	Rhode Island
	from St. Louis		
	Keys, Andre	WR	Cal Poly-Obis.

9. Reynolds, Lance	T	Brigham Yg.
10. Becker, Doug	LB	Notre Dame
Jurich, Tom	K	N. Arizona
Choice from Oakland through Tampa Bay.		
11. Terry, Nat	DB	Florida St.
from Tampa Bay.		
Brzoza, Tom	C	Pittsburgh
12. Carr, Brad	LB	Maryland

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

1. Little, Steve	K	Arkansas
Greene, Ken	DB	Washington St.
from Washington		
2. Barefield, John	LB	Texas A&I
3. Greene, Doug	DB	Texas A&I
4. Collins, George	G	Georgia
from San Diego		
Childs, Jim	WR	Cal Poly-SLO
5. Carr, Earl	RB	Florida
6. Williams, Jack	DE	Bowling Green
7. Stief, Dave	WR	Portland St.
8. Choice to Pittsburgh		
9. Mosley, Joe	TE	Cen. St.,Ohio
10. Gill, Randy	LB	San Jose St.
11. Choice to Cincinnati		
12. Clay, Anthony	LB	S.Carolina St.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

1. Jefferson, John	WR	Arizona St.
2. Hardaway, Milton	T	Oklahoma St.
3. Anderson, Rickey	RB	So. Caro. St.
4. Choice to St. Louis		
5. Choice to Detroit		
Choma, John	G	Virginia
from Los Angeles		
6. Choice to Detroit		
7. Featherstone, Cliff	DB	Colorado St.
8. Choice to Oakland		
Hedrick, Gavin	P	Washington St.
from Oakland		
9. Bradley, Henry	DT	Alcorn St.
Whitlatch, Blake	LB	Louisiana St.
10. Price, Charles	TE	Cincinnati
11. Choice to Oakland		
12. Bell, Kevin	WR	Lamar

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

1. Mac Afee, Ken	TE	Notre Dame
Bunz, Dan	LB	Cal St.-Lg. Bch
from Miami		
2. Choice to Buffalo		
Downing, Walt	G	Michigan
from Chicago		
3. Choice to Buffalo		
Hughes, Ernie	G	Notre Dame
from Baltimore		
4. Le Count, Terry	WR	Florida
5. Choice to Baltimore		
Reese, Archie	DT	Clemson
from Houston thru Kansas City and Chicago.		
Threadgill, Bruce	DB	Mississippi St.
from Miami.		
6. Walker, Elliott	RB	Pittsburgh
7. Quillan, Fred	C	Oregon
8. Choice to Washington		
9. Redden, Herman	DB	Howard
Moore, Dean	LB	Iowa
Choice from Detroit		
McDaniels, Steve	T	Notre Dame
from Denver		
10. Connell, Mike	P	Cincinnati
11. McCray, Willie	DE	Troy State
12. Irons, Dan	T	Texas Tech.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

1. Simpson, Keith	DB	Memphis St.
2. Butler, Keith	LB	Memphis St.
3. Jury, Bob	DB	Pittsburgh
4. Exercised in Supplemental Draft (Art Hunter)		
5. Bullard, Louis	T	Jackson St.
6. Starks, Glenn	WR	Texas A&I
7. Harris, John	DB	Arizona St.
8. Choice to Minnesota		
9. Grimmett, Rich	T	Illinois
10. Stewart, Rob	WR	Lafayette
11. Choice to New Orleans		
Halas, George	LB	Miami
from Miami		
12. Bergeron, Jeff	RB	Lamar

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

1. Choice to Houston		
Williams, Doug	QB	Grambling
from Houston		
2. Davis, Johnny	RB	Alabama
Moritz, Brett	G	Nebraska
from Houston		
3. Choice to Oakland		
4. Choice to Oakland		
5. Choice to Miami		
6. Choice to Oakland		
Marshall, Elijah	WR	N. Carolina St.
from Los Angeles		
7. Choice to Atlanta		
8. McGriff, John	LB	Miami
9. Taylor, Willie	WR	Pittsburgh
10. Brown, Aaron	LB	Ohio State
11. Choice to Pittsburgh		
12. McLee, Kevin	RB	Georgia

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

1. Choice to St. Louis		
2. Choice to Los Angeles		
3. Choice to Los Angeles		
4. Choice to Cleveland thru Los Angeles		
5. Choice to Philadelphia		
6. Choice to New Orleans thru Houston		
Green, Tony	RB	Florida
from Minnesota thru San Francisco		
7. Choice to Kansas City		
8. Lee, Walker	WR	N. Carolina
from San Francisco		
Choice to Atlanta		
Hover, Don	LB	Washington St.
from Los Angeles		
9. Hurley, John	QB	Santa Clara
10. Hertenstein, Scott	DE	Azusa Pacific
11. Williams, Mike	DB	Texas A&M
12. McCabe, Steve	G	Bowdoin

Draft Gusts . . . Draft Gusts . . . Draft Gusts . . . Draft Gusts . . .

1978 INTERCONFERENCE TRADES

Defensive end RICHARD NEAL from New York Jets to New Orleans Saints for a draft choice.

Right end LON BOYETT from Tampa Bay to Oakland for a draft choice.

Running back O.J. SIMPSON from Buffalo to San francisco for the 49ers' 1978 second and third round draft choices, two draft choices in 1979 and a draft choice in 1980.

Guard JOHN HICKS from New York Giants to Pittsburgh for center JIM CLACK and wide receiver ERNIE POUGH.

Running back DELVIN WILLIAMS from San Francisco to Miami for defensive back VERN ROBERSON, wide receiver FRED SOLOMON and the Dolphins' 1978 first and fifth round draft choices.

Tampa Bay's 1978 first round draft choice to Houston for tight end JIMMY GILES and the Oilers 1978 first and second round draft choices and 1979 third and fifth round draft choices.

Cleveland's 1977 selection rights to kicker-punter TOM SKLADANY to Detroit for the Lions' 1978 third round draft choice and 1979 seventh round draft choice.

Linebacker TOM GRAHAM from San Diego to Philadelphia for a draft choice.

Running back DON HARDEMAN from Houston to Tampa Bay for running back ANTHONY DAVIS.

Defensive tackle HERB ORVIS from Detroit to Baltimore for wide receiver FREDDIE SCOTT and fourth round draft choice.

1978 NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE TRADES

Guard CONRAD DOBLER and wide receiver IKE HARRIS from St. Louis to New Orleans for defensive end BOB POLLARD and guard TERRY STIEVE.

Tight end TOM MITCHELL and a draft choice from San Francisco to Washington for wide receiver LARRY JONES.

Defensive tackle WALLY CHAMBERS from Chicago to Tampa Bay for tight end BOB MOORE and the Buccaneers' 1979 first round draft choice.

Center DAN RYCZEK from Tampa Bay to Los Angeles for a draft choice.

Defensive end TOMMY HART from San Francisco to Chicago for a second round draft choice.

Running back GREG BOYKIN from New Orleans to San Francisco for defensive back RALPH McGILL.

LB DAVE WASHINGTON from San Francisco to Detroit for a draft choice.

1978 AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Center PHIL OLSEN from Denver to Buffalo for a draft choice.

Linebacker WILLIE LANIER from Kansas City to Baltimore for a draft choice.

Punter JERREL WILSON from Kansas City to Houston for a draft choice.

DAY OF THE DRAFT

Cleveland traded its first round choice previously acquired from Chicago to Los Angeles for the Rams first round choice and a fourth round choice which the Rams previously acquired from Washington. Los Angeles subsequently selected running back ELVIS PEACOCK (Oklahoma) and Cleveland selected wide receiver OZZIE NEWSOME (Alabama) and PETE PULLARA (Tenn. Chattanooga).

Cornerback ERNIE JACKSON from New Orleans to Atlanta for safety RAY BROWN.

Detroit trades linebacker JIM LASLAVIC to San Diego for the Chargers 5th a 6th round draft choices.

Chicago trades its 4th round choice to Kansas City for Houston's 5th round choice owned by the Chiefs and Kansas City's 6th round choice. Chicago then sent the Houston 5th round choice to San Francisco to complete a 1976 trade for running back LARRY SCHREIBER.

Defensive tackle DAVE PUREIFORY from Green Bay to Pittsburgh for the Steelers 5th round draft choice.

Linebacker JOE HARRIS from Washington to San Francisco for an 8th round draft choice.

San Diego trades its 8th and 11th round draft choices to Oakland for the Raiders 8th and 9th round draft choices.

Defensive tackle ERNIE HOLMES from Pittsburgh to Tampa Bay for Oakland's 10th (owned by Buccaneers) and Tampa Bay's 11th round choice.

Defensive end WILBUR YOUNG from Kansas City to San Diego for wide receiver LARRY DORSEY.

Two first round picks, Ken MacAfee (No. 7) and Clay Matthews (No. 12) have a familiarity with the NFL. Both players' fathers are former NLF performers, MacAfee's father, Ken, a former New York Giants receiver and Matthews' father, Clay, a tackle with San Francisco.

• • • •

Although being shut out in the entire 1977 draft, Notre Dame came back strong this year with three first round picks. They are Ken MacAfee (No. 7) to San Francisco, Ross Browner (No. 8) to Cincinnati, and Luther Bradley (No. 11) to Detroit.

• • • •

First Round Facts: The 28 picks in the first round took 2 hours, 10 minutes, compared to 2 hours, 54 minutes last year . . . There were 15 offensive players selected, 12 defensive and 1 kicker. By position, it was wide receivers and defensive backs 4; running backs, tackles, defensive ends and linebackers 3; tight ends and defensive tackles 2; and center, guards, quarterbacks and specialists 1 . . . By colleges, Notre Dame led with 3, while Michigan, Alabama, and Stanford had 2 each. By conference, both the Southeastern and the Pacific-8 had five.

• • • •

When St. Louis selected kicker Steve Little (No. 15) from Arkansas in the first round, he became just one of three kickers or punters taken in the opening round in recent NFL history. The other two were Ray Guy by Oakland in 1973 and Charlie Gogolak by Washington in 1966.

• • • •

In a contest, held for those fans viewing the draft from the Roosevelt Hotel balcony, two persons picked 21 correct selections of the 28 spots in the first round. First place went to Michael Eisenberg, 2222 E. 60th Place, Brooklyn, who correctly predicted the first seven players to go in the draft. Second place went to Marty Wagner, 100-7 Donizetti Place, Bronx, who had six of the first seven names correct. In all, 106 entries were received.

• • • •

A family affair—Ray Griffin, the defensive back from Ohio State chosen on the second round by Cincinnati, joins his brother Archie on the Bengals' roster. Archie, two-time Heisman Trophy winner from Ohio State, was selected on the first round of the 1976 NFL Draft. Lee Roy and Dewey Selmon are another brother combination currently playing on the same NFL team.

• • • •

Kansas City coach Marv Levy on Art Still: "As coach of the team, I'm extremely pleased to have a guy like Art on our defense. The future success of the Chiefs depends on rebuilding the defense. Art moves exceptionally well for a big man. He has that ability to shed off blockers and to get to the ball. In looking at numerous films on him, I was impressed by the intensity of his play. He stays in the play all the way and chases people from sideline to sideline. He has versatility in that he can play all the way as a down lineman or as an outside linebacker, though we are projecting him at defensive end right now."

Green Bay's own fourth-round choice has been forfeited under disciplinary action taken for illegal workouts of draft-eligible players. The club scheduled the sessions at Arizona State and Memphis State in February without knowing they were in violation of the NFL rule prohibiting working out draft eligible players away from their campuses or residences. The workouts were ordered stopped by Green Bay as soon as the club learned they were in violation of the rules. Green Bay was totally candid in providing complete details of the workouts after reports of them reached this office.

Power Action Points Table

FOR COLLEGE FOOTBALL

	PR	OR	DR	WEF	HT
Air Force	70	14	3	2	2
Alabama	124	55	28	5	4
Appalachian State	60	18	2	2	2
Arizona	83	35	10	2	2
Arizona St.	95	43	21	4	3
Arkansas	122	49	28	5	4
Army	79	44	13	3	3
Auburn	87	39	11	3	3
Baylor	86	36	15	3	4
Boston College	91	39	14	3	3
Brigham Young	103	49	16	4	2
Brown	83	40	25	3	2
California	100	41	16	3	3
Citadel	62	19	13	3	2
Clemson	101	30	25	4	2
Colgate	81	29	10	3	2
Colorado	110	43	20	3	4
Colorado St.	95	47	18	3	2
Columbia	62	13	7	2	2
Cornell	62	14	6	2	2
Dartmouth	76	20	16	3	2

	PR	OR	DR	WEF	HT
Davidson	68	19	7	2	1
Duke	97	40	12	3	3
E. Carolina	93	39	21	4	2
Florida	90	40	15	3	4
Florida St.	103	43	22	4	3
Furman	70	20	16	1	2
Georgia	90	31	21	3	3
Georgia Tech	89	36	15	3	3
Harvard	66	25	14	3	3
Holy Cross	60	14	8	2	2
Houston	110	46	18	4	3
Illinois	70	16	10	2	3
Indiana	81	30	13	3	3
Iowa	78	23	11	2	2
Iowa St.	105	40	22	3	3
Kansas	85	27	10	2	3
Kansas St.	62	16	9	2	2
Kentucky	106	41	22	3	3
LSU	105	48	20	4	4
Maryland	106	46	21	4	3
Memphis State	86	32	21	3	2

Power Action Points Table

FOR COLLEGE FOOTBALL

	PR	OR	DR	WEF	HT
Miami (Fla.)	76	25	8	2	3
Michigan	119	50	33	5	3
Michigan St.	114	46	21	4	3
Minnesota	80	22	22	3	3
Mississippi	96	36	21	3	3
Mississippi St.	92	36	16	3	3
Missouri	97	37	23	3	3
Navy	81	37	13	3	2
Nebraska	115	44	24	4	3
New Mexico	88	39	13	3	2
North Carolina	113	41	29	4	3
No. Carolina St.	105	39	20	3	2
Northwestern	66	19	7	1	2
Notre Dame	124	58	30	5	4
Ohio St.	119	53	31	5	3
Oklahoma	124	62	27	5	3
Oklahoma St.	90	39	18	2	3
Oregon	75	18	4	2	2
Oregon St.	68	16	4	2	2
Pennsylvania	66	16	13	3	2
Penn St.	122	56	31	5	4

	PR	OR	DR	WEF	HT
Pittsburgh	109	44	20	4	4
Princeton	69	17	10	3	2
Purdue	80	29	13	3	3
Rice	60	14	3	1	2
Richmond	64	16	6	1	2
Rutgers	85	30	21	2	2
South Carolina	88	31	12	3	3
Southern Cal.	109	43	20	4	3
SMU	69	19	5	2	2
So. Mississippi	73	22	10	2	2
Stanford	94	44	16	4	3
Syracuse	94	32	13	3	3
Tennessee	90	35	15	3	3
Texas	121	54	26	5	3
Texas A & M	104	44	19	3	3
TCU	57	19	3	2	2
Texas El Paso	55	15	1	2	1
Texas Tech	102	44	16	3	3
Tulane	70	18	9	3	3
UCLA	110	49	23	4	3
Utah	69	23	4	3	3

Power Action Points Table

FOR COLLEGE FOOTBALL

	PR	OR	DR	WEF	HT
Utah St.	68	19	9	2	3
Vanderbilt	89	32	8	3	3
Villanova	80	33	13	2	2
Virginia	60	13	8	2	3
VMI	70	24	18	2	2
Virginia Tech	80	20	16	2	2
Wake Forest	69	15	6	3	2

	PR	OR	DR	WEF	HT
Washington	108	39	21	4	3
Washington St.	94	45	17	3	3
West Virginia	85	36	9	3	3
William & Mary	70	23	12	3	2
Wisconsin	75	28	16	3	2
Wyoming	86	34	9	3	3
Yale	81	30	22	3	2

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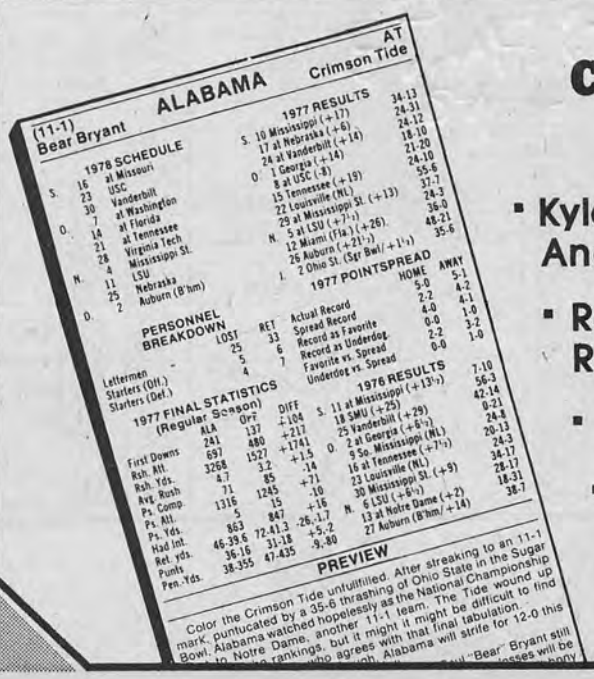
(11-1) ALABAMA AT
Bear Bryant Crimson Tide

1978 SCHEDULE
S. 16 at Missouri
23 USC
30 Vanderbilt
O. 7 at Washington
14 at Florida
21 at Tennessee
28 Virginia Tech
N. 4 Mississippi St.
11 LSU
25 Nebraska
D. 2 Auburn (B'ham)

1977 RESULTS
S. 10 Mississippi (+17) 34-13
17 at Nebraska (+6) 24-31
24 at Vanderbilt (+14) 24-12
O. 1 Georgia (+14) 18-10
8 at USC (-8) 21-20
15 Tennessee (+19) 24-10
22 Louisville (NL) 55-6
29 at Mississippi St. (+13) 37-7
N. 5 at LSU (+7½) 24-3
12 Miami (Fla.) (+26) 36-0
26 Auburn (+21½) 48-21
L. 2 Ohio St. (Sug Bowl/+1½) 35-6

1977 POINTSPREAD
HOME AWAY
5-0 5-1
2-2 4-2
4-0 4-1
0-0 1-0
2-2 3-2
0-0 1-0

PERSONNEL BREAKDOWN
LOST RET
Lettermen 25 33
Starters (Off.) 5 6
Starters (Def.) 4 7

Actual Record
Spread Record
Record as Favorite
Record as Underdog
Favorite vs. Spread
Underdog vs. Spread

1977 FINAL STATISTICS (Regular Season)
ALA OPP DIFF
First Downs 241 137 +104
Rsh. Att. 697 480 +217
Rsh. Yds. 3268 1527 +1741
Avg. Rush 4.7 3.2 +1.5
Pss. Comp. 71 85 -14
Pss. Att. 1316 1245 +71
Pss. Yds. 15 5 +10
Had Int. 5 847 +16
Ret. Yds. 863 72-41.3 -25-1.7
Punts 46-39.6 31-18 +5-2
Pen.-Yds. 36-16 47-435 -9-80

1976 RESULTS
S. 11 at Mississippi (+13½) 7-10
18 SMU (+25) 56-3
25 Vanderbilt (+6½) 42-14
O. 2 at Georgia (+6½) 0-21
9 So. Mississippi (+7½) 20-13
16 at Tennessee (NL) 24-3
23 Louisville (NL) 34-17
30 Mississippi St. (+9) 28-17
N. 6 LSU (+6½) 18-31
13 at Notre Dame (+2) 38-7
27 Auburn (B'ham/+14)

PREVIEW

Color the Crimson Tide unfulfilled. After streaking to an 11-1 mark, punctuated by a 35-6 thrashing of Ohio State in the Sugar Bowl, Alabama watched hopelessly as the National Championship [illegible] to Notre Dame, another 11-1 team. The Tide wound up [illegible] rankings, but it might be difficult to find [illegible] who agrees with that final tabulation.
[illegible] Alabama will strife for 12-0 this [illegible] Paul "Bear" Bryant still [illegible] losses will be [illegible]

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FOOTBALL POWER RATINGS

COLLEGE TEAMS

	OPENING 1978 RATING	LAST YEAR'S FINAL RATING	CURRENT RATING
AIR FORCE	70	73	
ALABAMA	124	124	
APPALACHIAN ST.	60	60	
ARIZONA	83	83	
ARIZONA STATE	95	98	
ARKANSAS	122	108	
ARMY	79	83	
AUBURN	87	88	
BAYLOR	86	85	
BOSTON COL.	91	93	
BOSTON U.	70	60	
BRIGHAM YOUNG	103	111	
BROWN	83	78	
CALIFORNIA	100	100	
CITADEL	62	64	
CLEMSON	101	94	
COLGATE	81	83	
COLORADO	110	110	
COLORADO ST.	95	92	
COLUMBIA	62	59	
CORNELL	62	59	
DARTMOUTH	76	73	
DAVIDSON	68	57	
DUKE	97	98	
E. CAROLINA	93	88	
FLORIDA	90	91	
FLORIDA ST.	103	88	
FURMAN	70	68	
GEORGIA	90	95	
GEORGIA TECH	89	85	
HARVARD	66	65	
HOLY CROSS	60	59	
HOUSTON	110	108	
ILLINOIS	70	67	
INDIANA	81	79	
IOWA	78	76	
IOWA STATE	105	103	
KANSAS	85	89	
KANSAS STATE	62	65	
KENTUCKY	106	118	
LSU	105	93	
MARYLAND	106	104	
MEMPHIS STATE	86	86	
MIAMI (FLA)	76	74	
MICHIGAN	119	122	
MICHIGAN ST.	114	95	
MINNESOTA	80	77	
MISSISSIPPI	96	96	
MISSISSIPPI ST.	92	92	
MISSOURI	97	96	
NAVY	81	79	
NEBRASKA	115	114	
NEW MEXICO	88	86	
NO. CAROLINA	113	110	
NO. CAROLINA ST.	105	103	
NORTHWESTERN	66	65	
NOTRE DAME	124	126	
OHIO STATE	119	119	
OKLAHOMA	124	131	
OKLAHOMA ST.	90	95	
OREGON	75	75	
OREGON ST.	68	56	
PENNSYLVANIA	66	64	
PENN STATE	122	122	
PITTSBURGH	109	105	
PRINCETON	69	66	
PURDUE	80	76	
RICE	60	56	
RICHMOND	64	67	
RUTGERS	85	97	
SO. CAROLINA	88	87	
SOUTHERN CAL.	109	113	
SMU	69	69	
SOUTHERN MISS.	73	72	
STANFORD	94	84	
SYRACUSE	94	84	
TENNESSEE	90	90	
TEXAS	121	122	
TEXAS A&M	104	107	
TCU	57	54	
TEXAS EL PASO	55	51	
TEXAS TECH	102	108	
TULANE	70	66	
UCLA	110	106	
UTAH	69	67	
UTAH STATE	68	64	
VANDERBILT	89	84	
VILLANOVA	80	82	
VIRGINIA	60	55	
VMI	70	74	
VIRGINIA TECH	80	80	
WAKE FOREST	69	65	
WASHINGTON	108	97	
WASHINGTON ST.	94	88	
WEST VIRGINIA	85	83	
WILLIAM & MARY	70	78	
WISCONSIN	75	72	
WYOMING	86	87	
YALE	81	78	

NFL TEAMS

ATLANTA	133	130	
BALTIMORE	146	141	
BUFFALO	127	128	
CHICAGO	139	136	
CINCINNATI	141	140	
CLEVELAND	135	137	
DALLAS	148	148	
DENVER	147	147	
DETROIT	133	131	
GREEN BAY	127	126	
HOUSTON	142	142	
KANSAS CITY	129	127	
LOS ANGELES	145	146	
MIAMI	146	144	
MINNESOTA	142	139	
NEW ENGLAND	146	143	
NEW ORLEANS	124	125	
NEW YORK GIANTS	129	131	
NEW YORK JETS	129	124	
OAKLAND	147	146	
PHILADELPHIA	133	131	
PITTSBURGH	146	143	
SAN DIEGO	139	138	
SAN FRANCISCO	135	131	
SEATTLE	128	125	
ST. LOUIS	135	139	
TAMPA BAY	124	122	
WASHINGTON	139	138	

FOOTBALL ACTION
First and Foremost

Sooner Wishbone Has a Lott of Snap

BIG 8

CONFERENCE COMPARISON

TEAM	PREDICTED FINISH	LETTERMEN		STARTERS RET.		STARTERS LOST	
		Returning	Lost	Offense	Defense	Offense	Defense
Oklahoma	First	43	15	8	7	3	4
Nebraska	Second	33	21	5	7	6	4
Colorado	Third	39	13	7	6	4	5
Iowa State	Fourth	43	15	7	7	4	4
Missouri	Fifth	37	18	7	6	4	5
Kansas	Sixth	39	21	7	7	4	4
Oklahoma State	Seventh	32	17	6	5	5	6
Kansas State	Eighth	41	10	7	6	4	5

OKLAHOMA (10-2)

Denied an unprecedented third National Championship in just five years when his Sooners fell apart against Arkansas in the Orange Bowl, Barry Switzer begins anew, with the goal the same and the cast very familiar. Oh, there are some changes. Seven starters are gone from last year's offensive and defensive machine that won Switzer his fifth consecutive Big Eight title, but there's more than enough talent available for Barry to be thinking No. 1 again.

Tom Lott, the All-Big Eight quarterback who fired four touchdown passes and led the Sooners to an average of 328.9 yards rushing — tops in the nation — returns to lead the country's most feared wishbone attack. Lott executed the option perfectly, himself rushing for a teamleading 760 yards and a 5.5-yard average. In Norman, Oklahoma, third-and-10 is not necessarily a passing down.

Also back is fullback Kenny King, a 640-yard producer with a 5.6-yard average and Billy Sims, who gained 406 yards and had a 6.2-yard average. Switzer, who has compiled a remarkable 51-5-2 record in his five years with the Sooners, doesn't have to look very far for a replacement for All-America halfback Elvis Peacock. In fact, there's more than one talented aspirant. David Overstreet, who backed Sims at right halfback and had "only" a 4.3-yard average, could move to the left spot or it could be Freddie Nixon, the All-Big Eight kick return specialist who could get the job. Nixon averaged 5.4-yards per carry. Still another in the picture for Peacock's spot is Jimmy Rogers. If past performances hold up, the position probably will be shared by all three with each member producing significant results.

While not about to change a winning formula, Switzer plans to stay one step ahead of the defenses. "We'll work on variations of the wishbone and that'll include some I formation plays, some split-back and some other things we think might work against the defenses we faced last year," says Switzer's Offensive Coach, Galen Hall.

On the line, offensive replacements have to found for Karl Baldischwiler and Jaime Melendez, the two seniors who played left tackle and left guard respectively. Sophs Kent Bradford and Louis Oubre are key figures in the battle for Baldischwiler's spot. Terry Crouch, a sophomore, and Keith Angel, a junior, are the leading candidates for Melendez's position.

The other side of the line is much more secure with right guard Greg Roberts blowing out the opposition. Roberts made several "All" teams last year, including A.P. and U.P.I. Big Eight recognition. He's flanked by center Paul Tabor and tackle Sam Claphan, veteran starters from 1977.

Ends are as valuable for their blocking as their receiving in the wishbone, and Switzer has a pair of good ones back. Tight end Victor Hicks blocks like a tackle but got loose often enough to catch five balls — three of them for touchdowns — and average 24.0 yards per reception. Split end Steve Rhodes caught 12 for two scores and an 18.8 yard average.

Oklahoma stands the chance of being better on defense in '78 considering that All-Americas George Cumby, Daryl Hunt and Reggie Kinlaw all return. Cumby and Hunt probably give the Sooners their best one-two punch at that position ever. Both own great speed. Cumby, in fact, is a converted fullback. Both were heaped with rewards, Cumby being named the Associated Press' Big Eight Defensive Player of the Year while Hunt led the team in tackles and garnered several All-America declarations.

The coaching staff is anxious to see if Richard Turner, the big, mobile middle guard who backed up Kinlaw last year, can play defensive tackle. Kinlaw, who shrugged off a doctor's suggestion that he have surgery to repair torn knee ligaments and went on to win All-America honors, is so good that the only way Turner is going to see playing time is by switching positions.

Phil Tabor, another bona fide "All" candidate, returns at right tackle to solidify the already-tough Sooner middle.

Bruce Taton and Reggie Mathis, OU's starting defensive ends most of last season, return. But they'll get strong competition from Greg Sellmyer, who missed the '77 campaign with a knee injury after breaking into the starting lineup the year before.

Sherwood Taylor, strong safety, and Mike Babb, who started at right corner, are the only returning starters in the secondary. Several athletes will bid for duty, including Byron Paul, the

sophomore who won a starting cornerback spot before a knee injury robbed him of a chance to play. Others in the picture are Bud Herbert and Darrol Ray, both injured last year.

Right now Switzer plans no drastic position changes. Most of the shuffling will take place in the secondary where All-America Zak Henderson and Terry Peters, left cornerback, held forth so well last year.

Uwe von Schamann, who won the Ohio State game with a clutch field goal last year, returns to handle all the kicking chores. Von Schamann punted for a 39.3 yard average and booted 14-23 field goals and 47-of-47 extra points.

The Sooners' schedule — as always — is a challenging one. They open on the road against Stanford and also must play Texas, Nebraska, Colorado and Iowa State away from the friendly confines of Owen Field in Norman.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: With an experienced offensive backfield and two of the best linebackers in the country, Oklahoma should be equally strong on offense and defense this year. The Sooner wishbone has the explosiveness of the nation's better passing attacks and can strike with lethal suddenness. Oklahoma should be right up there — where it always is — battling for the top national awards.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-fair, Rushing-superior*

Defense: *Against passing-very good, Against rushing-superior*

Tom Lott paces Sooner wishbone.

NEBRASKA (9-3)

The Huskers will sport a bit of a new look this year, but in general, they'll still be characterized by powerful running attack and a yen to pass—when necessary. Chances are good that Huskers' mentor Tom Osborne will introduce some phases of the veer this year in order to enable I.M. Hipp and Rick Berns—a couple of bluechippers—to gallop out of the same corral.

Nebraska won't completely abandon the I-formation and pro spread that has been so good to them over the years, especially in view of last year's 9-3 mark with an offense that registered more yards than any in NU history.

"We feel we'll be pretty good on offense with our passing as good or better than it was in 1977 and our running game once again outstanding," says Osborne.

Of course, the heart of the offense will be Hipp, that splendidly dashing, slashing prototype that puts fear into defenses every time he touches the ball. Hipp gained 1,353 yards last year in 215 carries for an outstanding 6.3-yards per carry average and scored 10 touchdowns. Berns is listed behind Hipp in Nebraska's two-deep, but Osborne will have fits keeping him out of the staring lineup. Last year he rushed for 700 yards and a 5.5 average while scoring nine times, and he'll start someplace, probably alongside Hipp.

Also in the running back picture are fullbacks Andra Franklin and Tim Wurth. Both had good averages in limited action.

Tim Sorely, who owns a pair of monograms, will start as quarterback. Sorely showed he could pass last year, connecting on 53 of 96 aerials (55.2 percent) while also adding 180 ground yards.

Split end Tim Smith, who led the club in '77 with 27 receptions and 449 yards, returns as Sorely's prime target. Gone, however, is tight end Ken Spaeth, who caught 24 balls last year. Spaeth's spot will be taken by Junior Miller, a reserve last season.

Osborne's major offensive headache is on the line where graduation has taken a heavy toll. Gone is All-America center Tom Davis, All-Big Eight guard Greg Jorgensen, and tackles Stan Waldemore and Brett Moritz. The unit will thus be paced by guard Steve Lindquist. John Havekost is penciled in on the other side with Kelvin Clark and Tom Ohrt slated for tackle duty. Kelly Saalfeld will be the center.

Most alternates played a lot last year so the situation is not nearly as bad as it looks.

The Cornhusker defense returns seven regulars and should be better than last year's unit. Look for the Huskers to be better up front, outstanding at linebacker, where Lee Kunz dazzles, quicker in the secondary and much improved overall, thanks, largely, to all that returning experience. The 1977 unit played well at times but suffered from inconsistency. Depth at defensive end and linebacker are Osborne's main defensive tasks.

Up front, end George Andrews is a standout while Kerry Weinmaster, Randy Poeschl, Rod Horn, Dan Pensick and Oudious Lee provide leadership and depth. Weinmaster is one of the quicker middle guards around while at 6-8 and 275 Poeschl is an intimidating factor.

Key to the defense, though, should be Kunz, Nebraska's most honored defensive player in '77. He earned Associated Press honorable mention All-America and second team AP and UPI All Big Eight honors for his 141 tackles, tops on the team.

Joining Kunz at linebacker will be Tom Vering who came on quickly at the end of the year to nail down the starter's role on the strongside.

The secondary will rely on monster back Jim Pillen, the younger brother of Clete Pillen, who was an outstanding linebacker for the Huskers a couple of year back.

A trio of double letter winners complete the backfield in cornerbacks Tim Fischer and Darrell Walton and safety Jeff Hansen.

The Nebraska kicking game should be in good shape with punter Tim Smith (40.8) and placekicker Billy Todd (31 of 36 PATs and 12 of 18 FGs) both returning.

Nebraska's schedule is anything but easy. Besides the rigors of the Big Eight, there's a curtain riser against California (in Lincoln) and a finale against vengeance-minded Alabama in Birmingham. Games with Indiana and Hawaii will be more welcome.

"If some newcomers develop as we hope," says Osborne, "and they think they can, we could have another Big Eight and top 10 contender."

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The Cornhuskers will have an entertaining and effective offense and a better than average defense but still can't match Oklahoma for overall excellence. Nebraska has some big holes to fill on the offensive line but Osborne should get them to a bowl—probably not the Orange Bowl, though.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-good, Rushing-excellent*

Defense: *Against passing-very good, Against rushing-very good*

COLORADO (7-3-1)

"Building depth and finding the right combination in our offensive backfield is a big thing for us," says Colorado coach Bill Mallory as he surveys 13 returning starters from among 40 of last year's lettermen back in the Buffalo camp. "I've never had as many major injuries in 22 years of coaching as we did last year," moaned Mallory. "This could be a good, solid football team if we work out those problem areas."

Major headache appears to be a quarterback where the Buffs lost the league's top passer and Second Team All-Big Eight Quarterback, Jeff Knapple, who transferred to Northern Colorado after passing for 1,203 yards last year.

Leading candidate for Knapple's spot is Pete Cyphers, who started the last game against Kansas State and directed the Buffs to a 23-0 win when Knapple was suspended. Cyphers' assets are a good arm, leadership and maturity. Also challenging for the signal-caller's role will be Bill Solomon and Joe Gasper.

CU returns one of the finest running backs in the league in bruising fullback James Mayberry, who twisted and lunged for 1,299 yards last year. Mayberry, who has All-America possibilities, carries a 5.3 yards per-carry average.

Tailback is another area of concern for Mallory. Mike Kozlowski showed flashes of brilliance but was felled by a punctured lung and rib fracture which kept him out of the middle portion of the season. Eddie Walker is waiting in the wings, but he, too, must overcome an injury. Walker suffered a knee injury in the fall and was never the same, resulting in his redshirt status. His knee is still off-and-on but Mallory thinks he's ready to go full tilt now. Another candidate is Jeff Hornberger who started one game, played well, but suffered and injury and had to have his spleen removed.

"We have to find one of these kids who will stay healthy and give us the kind of running we need at tailback," admits Mallory. "I won't rule out Mayberry playing at tailback, and we will use him a little each day at that spot."

One tailback who was moved is Howard Ballage, who ran for 462 yards and six touchdowns last year. He's been shuffled to split end where Steve Gaunty played last year. Gaunty has joined Knapple at Northern Colorado. Ballage opened the season as the starting wingback so he has plenty of receiving experience and ability.

Tight end Bob Niziolek is one of the Big Eight's best, last year snaring 29 balls for 416 yards and three TDs to finish second in the conference in receiving. The 6-5 target is another potential all-star.

Steve Doolittle has the inside track for wingback but he'll get a challenge from transfer Tom Haigh.

A traditional Colorado strength has been its offensive line and this year's edition of the Buff front five should continue the trend.

CU loses only center Leon White from the front wall. Tackles Matt Miller (6-6, 275) and Stan Brock (6-6, 255) are among the league's best with Miller potential All-America timber. The guards, Dave Griffin (6-3, 260) and Bruce Kirchner (6-3, 235) are solid, and there's a bluechip soph named Brant Thurston (6-5, 255) just waiting for his chance to play at either guard or tackle. Mike Tope is the likely center.

Defensively, Colorado's injury-plagued unit ranked fifth in the league last year and Mallory is concerned about this year's entourage, too: "We need to find another linebacker and an end, plus move the people in the secondary around to find the right spots."

All-America and Outland Trophy candidate Ruben Vaughan anchors this defense from his tackle spot. The 6-3, 260-pounder has 4.8 speed to go with his awesome strength (bench presses over 500 pounds).

Another good one is middle guard Laval Short, a junior who led the team in tackles last year and recorded 11 sacks. He's also got 4.8 speed and can lift 480 pounds.

CU lost a pair of All Big Eight performers in end Randy Westendorf and open-side halfback Odis McKinney but returns stars like end Stuart Walker (who had surgery in the winter on his ailing shoulder), Apache-back Mark Haynes, and halfback Jesse Johnson.

Gone are two of the best linebackers CU has ever had in Tom Perry and Brian Cabral . . . and they will be hard to replace. Jeff Lee started when Perry was out and will have the role full-time this year. His LB mate should be Brian McCabe, who filled in when Cabral was hurt.

Depth is the major problem in the secondary. Haynes and Johnson are solid, but Mallory still needs two more players back there.

Pete Dadiotis (30 of 32 PATs and eight of 16 FGs) is back but he'll get a challenge from Larry Trower, who set all kinds of records in high school. Lance Olander will get first shot at the punting chores. Knapple did the work last year.

The schedule is just what the Buffs need, eight home games, including the first five games of the season. Also, the potential "big" foes, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Iowa State all must visit Boulder. The only road games are with Oklahoma State, Missouri and Kansas State. The non-conference sked is not too difficult, with Oregon, Miami (Fla.), San Jose State and Northwestern listed.

ACCU—LINE CONCLUSION: The Buffalo schedule will afford Mallory the opportunity and luxury of experimenting with his starting lineup before the first key game (against Kansas on Oct. 7) opens up the Big Eight schedule. The Buffaloes should be in high gear by the time Nebraska comes to town (Oct. 21) but whether or not they can seriously challenge for the league crown will depend on how well the quarterback, tailback and secondary positions are filled.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-fair, Rushing-excellent*

Defense: *Against passing-good, Against rushing-very good*

IOWA STATE (8-4)

After a second consecutive eight win season — the first time that's happened since 1906-07 — Iowa State coach Earle Bruce naturally is looking forward to another year at the helm of the Cyclones.

"There's no doubt that we're encouraged with the talent we have, in fact it's probably the most talent we've ever had at Iowa State," points out Bruce. "The thing that is so important is the fact that we've had such a great team attitude the past two seasons. If we have that same great attitude with the talent that we have, we'll be successful."

Seven starters return to Iowa State's I-formation, including Dexter Green, one of the most exciting and productive rushers in Big Eight history. The diminutive (5-9, 170) Green flashed for 1,412 yards, a 4.7-yard average, and scored 15 touchdowns. He also led the team in receptions with 25 for an additional 203 yards. Another comparable season should place Green fourth in Big Eight rushing annals behind Terry Miller, Steve Owens and Joe Washington, topflight company, indeed. Jeff Curry, who carries a 5.0-yard average and could start on many other teams, is Green's backup.

However, the situation is not quite so well defined at fullback, where two-year starter Cal Cummins has departed. Pat Kennedy and Jack Seabrooke are the two leading candidates to fill the vacancy although Bruce won't rule out the switch of Curry or a freshman winning the spot, either.

Quarterback, forseen as a weakness at this time last year, is now a Cyclone strength. Three lettermen signal-callers, all of whom saw action in '77, return, in addition to a pair of transfers and one redshirt. Holding the edge, however, is Terry Rubley, who stepped in and became the second best passer in the Big Eight last year with 1,037 yards and four TD hauls. Rubley connected on 58 percent of his aerials. Should he falter, coach Bruce can turn to a bevy of candidates, including John Quinn, Vinny Cerrato, Walter Grant, Steve Winum and Greg Lempke. The position is so deep that Cerrato likely will play slotback and Lempke will be a ball-carrier.

Seven of the top eight receivers from last year's squad return so the Cyclones should be a legitimate passing threat this year. Besides Green, top pass catchers include Stan Hixon, Ray Hardee and Guy Preston. Hixon was the leading receiver among the wide men last year despite part time status, while Hardee, a second team All-Big Eight choice, chipped in with 19 grabs (Hixon had 22). Preston, a lanky 6-7, 210-pounder, is a three-time letterman at tight end. He had 15 catches for 271 yards last year.

Three of the five offensive interior linemen return, including Al

Mike Stensrud is ISU's enforcer.

Grissinger, who will be in his third year as a starter; Dick Cuvelier, regarded by Bruce as "one of the premier sophomore offensive linemen in the nation" last fall; and Brian Neal, another super soph. Cuvelier will remain at his familiar left tackle spot and Neal again will line up at right guard. However, it appears that Grissinger will move from left guard to center. Tim Stonerook a part-time starter, looks ready to assume fulltime duty at right tackle.

"The strength of the Big Eight Conference is defense," emphatically states Bruce. The Cyclones were ranked number one against Big Eight opposition in overall defense last year and seven starters return from that unit.

Three of five starters are back on the line, headed by All-Big Eight pick Mike Stensrud at tackle. He'll be joined by Greg Resnick and Rick White. Among the missing, however, are first-team All-Big Eight tackle Tom Randall and second-team All-Leaguer Craig Volkens (end).

Steve Weidemann appears to be the heir to Volens' spot with the tackle position up for grabs.

The linebacking corps looks strong with second-team Big Eight pick Tom Boskey heading the unit. Also available are lettermen Mike Leaders and Scott Cole along with Scott Hansen, who lettered as a freshman last year.

"Perhaps our biggest challenge defensively will be in the hands of our new secondary coach, Pete Carroll," says Earle Bruce. While depth is a problem, three of four defensive backfield starters return. The trio is comprised of safety Mike Schwartz, cornerback Mike Clemons and rover Tom Perticone. Jerry Washington, who started in the Peach Bowl, likely will complete the quartet.

All-Big Eight punter Rick Blabolil and place-kicker Scott Kollman have graduated and Bruce will search for replacements. The return game is secure, however, with Ray Hardee, the Big Eight kickoff return leader in 1975 and 1977 (he didn't have enough to qualify in 1976) back in the fold.

The Iowa State schedule, as all Big Eight schedules are, is tough, although the Cyclones have an edge of sorts, this year. They open with four non-conference games — Rice, San Diego State, Iowa and Drake — and could, of course, win them all and thus build confidence for the Big Eight sked which starts with Nebraska on October 7. The league's other perennial stalwart, Oklahoma, like Nebraska, visits Ames. The Cyclones also host Kansas State.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: With the nucleus of last year's fine team intact and a favorable schedule that has both Oklahoma and Nebraska visiting Iowa State, the Cyclones should be a force to contend with in the Big Eight. The proven passing attack should make Green even more effective, and the defense, too, is a proven commodity. It'll all come down to how ISU does against Oklahoma, Nebraska and Colorado. If the Cyclones win two of those three and don't trip up elsewhere, it could be they'll be spending New Year's in Miami.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-very good, Rushing-very good*

Defense: *Against passing-good, Against rushing-very good*

MISSOURI (4-7)

After 20 years of combined football under Dan Devine and Al Onofrio, Missouri's destiny will be determined by Warren Powers in 1978. Powers is by way of Washington State where he fashioned a 6-5 mark last season as a rookie mentor. In succeeding Onofrio, Powers replaces a coach whose forte was upsets. However, when Missouri was able to win just four games last year, it was no upset in Tigerland that Onofrio was sent packing.

The locals can be expected to treat Powers with much kindness — especially in view of the fact that he's a Missouri product. Add to that a tenure as Nebraska's defensive secondary coach and a playing career with the Oakland Raiders and Powers seems eminently qualified to put some new teeth in the ole Mizzou Tiger. However, as Onofrio learned, it will be performance not personality that ultimately determines Powers' tenure.

Onofio's legacy to Powers is 37 returning lettermen, including 17 of 22 on offense and 12 of the top 22 on defense.

However, numbers can be deceiving. Skilled people like quarterback Pete Woods and flanker Joe Stewart are gone from the offense.

"You've got a problem when you don't have an established returning quarterback," admits Powers, glancing at Woods' 785 aerial yards and 51.2 completion percentage.

Phil Bradley, a slight (170 lbs) sophomore, who stood in for woods when the latter was injured twice last season, appears the logical heir to the signal caller's role. Bradley earned his stripes (and a letter) by rushing for 372 yards and passing for 492 more. He's expected to benefit from his freshman experience and be that much the better this year.

Despite the loss of Stewart, one of the conference's best, Bradley has two excellent targets in split end Leo Lewis and tight end Kellen Winslow. Lewis is very dangerous, a Mel Gray type who led the Big Eight in punt returns as a freshman and sophomore but was bothered somewhat by a bum wheel last year. Still, Lewis caught 24 balls for 273 yards.

Winslow, who measures in at 6-6 and 240, was a consensus All-Big Eight selection in 1977 after snaring 25 receptions for 358 yards and three TDs. He is particularly awesome after catching the football, often running right over defensive backs.

Bradley will have the benefit of an experienced line, with four of last season's interior five returning. Pete Allard, a converted tackle, heads the unit from his center position. He'll team with guards Mark Jones and Mark Clark, along with tackle Howard Richards in providing experience. Newcomer to the front will be left tackle Wayne Washington.

The ground crew welcomes back last year's leading rusher, Earl Gran, so Missouri certainly shouldn't be a one-dimension offensive machine. Gant, operating out of the tailback spot, amassed 769 yards in 144 thrusts for a hefty 5.3-yard average. Joining him in the backfield will be Rich Dansdill, a backup at fullback last year.

Cecil Holloway will assume Stewart's flanker position, thus completing the backfield.

Missouri's defense was not up to past editions last year and Powers hopes to upgrade that unit while retaining the basic 5-2.

Up front, two starters return, led by Steve Hamilton, a big, bruising defender who was switched from end to tackle this spring. Hamilton will team with right tackle Jim Matthews, Kurt Petersen, Ron Soda, Scott Harrell and Tony Green will vie for the other spots.

Linebacking appears to be a strength with the return of last year's two regulars, Chris Garlich and Billy Bess. Garlich, an academic All-America, is highly aggressive and was the Tigers' No. 3 man in tackles last fall.

Russ Calabrese and Terry Newman are returning starters in the secondary— at left cornerback and right safety, respectively — with Larry Lauderdale and Bill Whitaker slated for starting duty this season.

Powers need not fret about his kicking game. Last year's mainstays are back — Monte Montgomery and Paul Miller as the punters and Jeff Brockhaus (22 of 23 PATs and 9-22 FGs) as the placekicker.

Powers' baptism of fire will come almost immediately as the Tigers open with Notre Dame and Alabama on the first two weeks of the season. Missouri, thus, plays last year's No. 1 and No. 2 teams on successive weekends. It seems like no way to start a career. Also on the slate are Oklahoma, Nebrasks, etc. All-in-all, Missouri has one of the toughest schedules in the nation.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: A solid offensive line and talent at receiver and running back should ease the debut of Powers and make things equally simpler for Bradley. The personnel is fine, and Missouri will have a good team — but who will notice? The Tigers will be done in by a schedule that has no breathers. The team will be better but the record may not.

OUTLOOK
Offense: *Passing-good, Rushing-good*
Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-good*

KANSAS (3-7-1)

Kansas was dominated by youth and inexperience in 1977 as more than 30 freshman and sophomores comprised the Jayhawks' traveling roster. The Kansas outlook for '78, despite the return of 39 lettermen and 14 starters, is for much the same this season.

"I don't think there is any question that we'll again be a very young and inexperienced team," Kansas coach Bud Moore admits. "I think we have a chance to be improved in some areas, but at the same time we must make considerable improvement in many areas to realistically think we'll be better than a year ago."

Perhaps the foremost problem facing Moore and the Jayhawks is what type of offense Kansas will employ this year. The wishbone, which brought Kansas to national acclaim in 1975 and '76, has been dropped. A multiple scheme of offenses has been instituted, instead.

"Our philosophy is to utilize an offense that best suits our personnel," explained Moore.

Settling on a quarterback is in itself a problem. The No. 1 candidate appears to be Brian Bethke, a starter in three games last year, including the final two. Bethke probably won the No. 1 spot with his season-ending performance against Missouri when he passed for 180 yards and added 61 more on the ground. All told, Bethke completed 23 of 53 passes for 384 yards to rank first among Jayhawk passers.

Should Bethke falter, a bunch of aspirants are waiting in the wings. Steve Smith, Jeff Hines, Bill Lillis and Harry Sydney all have designs on the job. Hines started seven games last year but lost his starter's berth to Bethke and Smith in the final few contests. Lillis is coming off a redshirt season while Sydney is returning to his old high school position after after playing halfback a year ago.

Two of last year's top three running backs—Bill Campfield and Norris Banks—have walked the commencement line, leaving Max Ediger as the only truly experienced hand. Ediger gained 443 yards a year ago and had a 6.1-yard average.

The remainder of the offensive thrust should come from Mike Higgins, the team's fourth leading ball-carrier in '77, Sam Smith and Bobby Barrow

The two wide receivers from a year ago—David Verser and Mark Vicendese—have been moved to flanker, leaving the former post wide open. The No. 1 candidate at WR is Rob Fulton, who last year had one reception for 15 yards. Next on the list is redshirt Larry Gibson who is switching from the defensive secondary.

Verser will start at flanker after leading the Jayhawks in receiving last year with 11 (that's right, eleven?) catches for 220 yards.

Kirby Criswell is the incubent at tight end. Criswell only caught two balls last year by now you've figured out that Kansas didn't do much damage in the air—but at 6-5, 220 can block well and is a good target.

The offensive line returns center Mike Wellman and not much more. Tom O'Doherty moves to a starting guard position after enjoying the same status at tackle last year and his running mate should be promising sophmore Al Roberts.

The tackles lack experience but the Kansas staff is hopeful that good potential is present. Only Dave Fletcher and Mike Gay are lettermen and perhaps the best bet to make his presence felt is Bob Whitten, who saw action as a freshman.

Both the defensive line and linebackers could be strong points, particularly the latter. Scellars Young and Monty Carbonell are returning starters at linebacker and, along with John Calovich, are highly regarded performers.

Anchoring the defensive line are seniors Mike Beal (tackle) and John Algee(noseguard). Defensive ends Jim Zidd, Fred Osborn and Jerry Calovich are also proven performers. Two top-notch sophs—Greg Smith and John Odell—figure to bolster the defensive tackle spots.

Only free safety Leroy Irvin can be labeled a proven veteran in the secondary, and that area is doubley hurt by the graduation of Tom Fitch, an All-Conference pick.

The kicking game is a potential strength for the Jayhawks. Mike Hubach averaged 40.6 yards per punt last year and has connected on his last 27 extra points (a school record).

An unusually strong non-conference schedule won't help the Jayhawks, either. Kansas opens with Texas A&M, then visits Rose Bowl champion Washington in Seattle before returning home for games with UCLA and Miami (Fla.).

"I said the same thing a year ago but it's still true," Moore laments. "Our non-conference schedule is not conducive to building confidence in a young and inexperienced football team. That makes our situation even more difficult."

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: A tough schedule, lack of an aerial game, loss of their best runners and an inconsistent defense do not auger well for the Jayhawks this season. Kansas will have great difficulty moving the ball, either on the ground or in the air and what will probably result will be the worst season of the Moore era.

OUTLOOK
Offense: *Passing-poor, Rushing-fair*
Defense: *Against passing-poor, Against rushing-poor*

OKLAHOMA ST. (4-7)

After operating strictly from the veer on offense last year the Cowboys are going to experiment with a combination of the veer and pro-set offenses this season. Coach Jim Stanley will have his Pokes throwing the ball more in '78. In the past, the offense was built around Terry Miller, the Big Eight legend who has now departed after rushing for 1,680 yards, a 5.4 average and 14 touchdowns last year.

There are 32 lettermen returning, including six starters on offense and five on defense. The emphasis this year will be at quarterback, not running back. Both starters are returning, Harold Bailey and Randy Stephenson, plus a new dimension, former baseballer and grid letterman Scott Burk. Bailey has a strong arm and halfback-like speed but is injury prone. Stephenson directed the Cowboys to wins over conference foes Kansas and Kansas State while Burk returns after a brief fling with the Red Sox. Oklahoma State completed a paltry 48 of 135 aerials last year and teams were able to stack up against the run. Stanley wants more production from his aerial game this time.

The receiving corps is deep, if unproven. Stanley has three tight ends, Steve Stephens, Bruce Jones and Chris Meyers. L.P. Williams will start at flanker for the second straight year after catching 11 balls for 233 yards last year. Unfortunately, four-year letterman Gerald Bain, the Cowboys' leading receiver (16 catches for 349 yards) has graduated. Chipp Latham may inherit the spot, or he may swap positions with Williams.

Says Stanley of his receiving corps: "I predict we'll be better than last year but we'll be asking for different requirements, too."

With Miller gone, Stanley will look to a trio of sophomores—Vince Orange, Steve Hammond and Worley Taylor. Orange was a part-time starter but at season's end it was Taylor who caught everyone's eye. Taylor had a 5.6 yards-per carry average in limited

action. Also on hand is red-shirt Ed Smith from Texas A&M. Many thought he was second only to the nonpareil Miller last year.

"You can't help but miss a Terry Miller," admits Stanley, "but I've got to feel good about the four men we have around. Smith promises to be a good tailback and Taylor could be the most explosive fullback since Walt Garrison."

The offensive line loses two blue-chippers in tackle Milton Hardaway and guard Craig Simmons, who collected seven letters between them. The only returning letterman at tackle is Jim Clark. A trio of freshmen, from a year ago, Roy Hackett, Charlie Collazo and Bart Latham, will scramble for playing time on the other side.

At guard, one of the best players in the Cowboy camp is Reggie Richardson, who muscled his way into a starting job last fall. Mike Schwager, who lettered twice at center, gets a shot at the other guard spot.

Workhorse Dave Monroe returns at the pivot after winning that position last year.

The defense has lost a wealth of talent to graduation. Daria Butler, Chris Dawson, Joe Avanzini, Peter Coppola, Willie Lester and Jerry Cramer were all four-year lettermen and starters.

At end, two-time All-Big Eight Dara Butler will be the most difficult to replace but Avanzini toiled long and hard, too. Mike Edwards and Dexter Manley earned monograms and will move into starting roles at the terminals.

Tackle spots should be manned by Curtis Boone and William Jennings. Boone proved a freshman could survive the trench wars of the Big-Eight while Jennings started six games in '77 and should improve. An experiment will have converted tight end Donnie Echols taking a shot at tackle, too.

Billy Wells is tentatively pencilled in for nose guard with Steve Heinzler around for insurance.

Linebacker is a real question mark since John Corker was stuck with conduct probation. George Suda improved on the strong side last year and started the final three games.

The secondary retains two starters from a year ago, cornerback Gregory Johnson and strong safety Gary Irons. Johnson started all 11 games as a freshman in addition to leading the team in punt returns while finishing second in kickoff returns. Irons will be working on his fourth letter.

Darnell Scott, a three-year letterman himself, will move over to free safety. John Odom will occupy the other corner.

The kicking game returns both punter Dave Hanna (37.1) and placement specialist Colin Ankerson (3-11 FGs and 28-30 PATs).

The Oklahoma schedule lists four non-conference games. There are road trips to Wichita State, Florida State and North Texas State and a home match with powerful Arkansas. Other tough games include road contests with Oklahoma and Nebraska.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: By all measures, this will be a very different Oklahoma State team than Cowboy fans are accustomed to seeing. The offense will pass more, but how effectively is yet to be determined. The defense, meanwhile, generally lacks experience. Stanley didn't say it, so we will. It looks like a rebuilding year in Stillwater.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-poor, Rushing-fair*
Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-poor*

KANSAS STATE (1-10)

With only one winning season in the last 23 and a 61-174-1 mark over that same span, you might think Jim Dickey could have found a softer spot to begin his head coaching career than at Kansas State. But Dickey is a proven winner, an assistant coach who prospered with such successful teams as Houston, Oklahoma State, Oklahoma, Kansas and North Carolina.

"I am convinced that a successful football program is an attainable goal at Kansas State University," says Dickey. "If I did not think that we could achieve a first-rate, winning program that is ethical in both the spirit and letter of established rules, then I would not have considered the job. I have been associated with several outstanding programs and that training, along with solid preparation and dedicated effort will give K-State a chance to be successful," maintains Dickey.

Dickey inherits 20 offensive letterman including seven starters from last year. One of his top priorities this spring was in finding a starting quarterback. Among the candidates were lettermen Dan Manucci and Steve Parish, juco transfer Sheldon Paris and sophomores Ron Lampkin and Paul Hobbs. Of the quintet, Manucci is the most experienced, seeing enough action last year to hurl 97 aerials, with 42 completed. However, he was intercepted nine times.

If someone can get him the ball, wide receiver Charley Green should have another outstanding year. Last year Green led the Big Eight in receiving, snaring 33 balls for 634 yards, a 19.2 yard average.

To make Green even more effective, the ground game will have to do better than last year's meager 2.7 average yards per attempt. Aiding the infantry's development will be the return of last year's top two rushers, tailback Mack Green and fullback Roosevelt Duncan. Green bolted for 707 yards in 192 workmanlike carries, a 3.7 average, while Duncan chipped in with 272 yards in 66 carries (4.1).

Up front, Dickey will look to tackles Bob Thompson (295) and Walt Wywadis (260) and guard Clinton Davenport (250).

On defense, six regulars are back, but among the missing is Gary Spani, the multi-decorated linebacker who has been K-State's outstanding player the past few years. Not only was Spani heads and shoulders above his nearest competitor for total tackles (178 to 104), but the number two-man, weakside linebacker Randy Lorenzen, also has departed.

"We know we have some positions to shore up," admits Dickey, "but we have some pretty good talent available."

Wildcat coaches are hoping sophomores Ben Landry and Gary Cummings, and juco transfer Rod Pray can take up some of the slack left by Spani and Lorenzen.

Similar worries exist at end where multi-year starters Mike Osborn and Keith Nelms have departed. Nelms led the team in sacks (12), one more than Spani, while Osborne finished third in that category.

The interior of the line is set. Noseguard Dave Kuklenski will be flanked by tackles Chester Jeffrey and Rob Houchin. All were starters last year.

The strength of the Wildcats defense should be the secondary, where Clyde Brinson, Sam Owen and William Fisher return to starting roles. Brad Horchem was Fisher's backup at free safety last year, but could fill up the one vacancy this season. Horchem, despite his part-time status, topped the Wildcats in passes broken up (five) and also had two interceptions.

Don Birdsey should continue to improve in his punting duties after last year turning in an applaudable freshman performance. Birdsey had a 39.4-yard average but had exceptional hang time. He kicked 14 over 50 yards last year.

Kris Thompson returns at placekicker after connecting on two of seven field goal attempts and 11 of 12 conversions.

Kansas State's schedule is typical Big Eight with four of seven conference games at home. However, the road tests are awesome, including Oklahoma, Nebraska and Iowa State. Non-conference foes include Arizona, Auburn, Tulsa and Air Force. This is about on a par with last year's quartet of Brigham Young, Florida State, Wichita State and Mississippi State. K-State hasn't won a Big Eight Conference game since 1974 and hasn't beaten arch-rival Kansas since 1972.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Coach Dickey's optimism far outshines his visible talent and it appears that once again, prospects are not very bright in Manhattan, Kansas. He is without a veteran quarterback and his defense has lost All-America Spani and Lorenzen. Moving the ball will be a major problem, one that will ultimately doom the Wildcats.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-poor, Rushing-fair.*
Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-poor.*

Crimson Tide to Twist Tigers' Tail

CONFERENCE COMPARISON

TEAM	PREDICTED FINISH	LETTERMEN		STARTERS RET.		STARTERS LOST	
		Returning	Lost	Offense	Defense	Offense	Defense
Alabama	First	33	25	5	7	6	4
Louisiana State	Second	43	14	8	5	3	6
Mississippi	Third	39	15	7	7	4	4
Kentucky	Fourth	33	14	6	6	5	5
Tennessee	Fifth	42	16	8	4	3	7
Mississippi State	Sixth	43	21	5	6	6	5
Auburn	Seventh	40	21	7	7	4	4
Vanderbilt	Eighth	40	20	6	6	5	5
Florida	Ninth	33	28	3	6	8	5
Georgia	Tenth	34	20	7	3	4	8

ALABAMA (11-1)

Color the Crimson Tide unfulfilled. After streaking to an 11-1 mark, punctuated by a 35-6 thrashing of Ohio State in the Sugar Bowl, Alabama watched hopelessly as the National Championship went to Notre Dame, another 11-1 team. The Tide wound up second in the rankings, but it might be difficult to find anyone in the State who agrees with that final tabulation.

So, if 11-1 isn't good enough, Alabama will strive for 12-0 this year. And the Tide just might get it.

There are losses, to be sure, but coach Paul "Bear" Bryant still has a cupboard that is over half full. The most noticeable losses will be All-America receiver Ozzie Newsome and running back Johnny Davis, Bama's leading ball carrier the past three years. "I was probably stupid not to graduate with Ozzie and Johnny," moans the Bear, who annually paints a more dreary picture than his opponents eventually see.

Even with the departure of Newsome, Davis, and three starters from the offensive front, Bryant's offense should be anything but impotent. Leading the way will be quarterback Jeff Rutledge, the SEC completion percentage king. Rutledge, who was named Sugar Bowl MVP, connected on 64 of 107 aerials for 1,207 yards and eight touchdowns. He was intercepted only five times, amazingly all in the same game, Bama's 31-24 loss to Nebraska. While prime target Newsome has departed, Rutledge has Rick Neal back at tight end and Bruce Bolton and Keith Pugh for the wide receiver spot.

Alabama, of course, primarily is a running team. This year's edition of the wishbone offense will feature the exploits of left halfback Tony Nathan, Bama's leading scorer with 15 touchdowns in 1977. Nathan amassed 642 yards on 104 carries, a 6.2 average, and also led the Tide's kickoff and punt return corps. To the right of Rutledge will be another starter, Mitch Ferguson. Fergy had a 5.9 yards-per-carry average. Attempting to fill Davis' cleats will be Steve Whitman, a junior who had 109 yards in 26 carries last year.

Whitman must be able to make significant yardage up the middle if the Tide's outside game also is to be effective. Of great help should be returning center Dwight Stephenson, an All-SEC selection last year. Stephenson was converted from defensive end and rewarded Bryant's judgement with near flawless play. His performance against Ohio State's Aaron Brown paved the way for Bama's lopsided Sugar Bowl win.

Rejoining Stephenson will be tackle Jim Bunch, a starter since his freshman year. Bryant will use Vince Boothe to fill one guard vacancy and will choose from a half-dozen aspirants for the other. Mike Brock tentatively is penciled in for the other tackle spot.

The Alabama defense, which gave up only 139 points in 12 appearances (11.6 per game), loses only four starters to graduation, end Dewey Mitchell, safety Mike Kramer, Cornerback Mike Tucker and noseguard Terry Jones. "We're thin because we didn't have any top reserves," admits Bryant, "but we're far, far better off this year than we were at this time in 1977. Last year at this time I couldn't give you one name that would be in our front five. Now, providing that David Hannah's knee comes along, I think we'll have a fine front."

Returning starters in addition to Hannah are tackle Marty Lyons and end Wayne Hamilton. As usual, there are more than enough able bodies available for the line vacancies.

The Tide's top three tacklers statistically last year were linebackers, and all are back. Barry Krauss (51 stops), Rich Wingo and Rickey Gilliland (49 tackles each) comprise the triumverate.

Don McNeal, who broke up a team-leading 11 passes last year, heads up the secondary. Murray Legg returns at strong safety while sophomore Ricky Tucker started several games last year and gained valuable experience, too. There's also Phil Allman, a 1976 starter, and Allen Crumbley. Bryant, buoyed by the success of the Stephenson switch, will experiment with Mike Sutton, an offensive halfback, in the defensive backfield.

The kicking game is intact with punter Buddy Holt (40.3 average) and placement specialist Roger Chapman (30-35 extra points, 11-24 field goals with a long of 46 yards), back for their junior years.

Alabama's schedule is a challenging one. Aside from the regular rigors of the SEC, the Tide has Southern Cal., Washington and Nebraska on their slate. The Trojans are always tough; the Huskies are coming off their euphoric Rose Bowl Championship year; and the Cornhuskers were the only team to beat Bama in '77. A saving grace for Alabama is the fact that only the Washington game is away. Locals will have ample opportunity to see the Tide, as eight of Alabama's 11 regular season games are at home, including the last five. Besides Washington, Bama is on the road against only Missouri and Tennessee. A major disappointment of the schedule is the failure again to schedule Kentucky.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Bryant's beefs aside, Alabama should have another outstanding football team this year. The Tide traditionally has a deep squad and there wi.l be plenty of competition for the available offensive line spots. The Bama wishbone will continue to roll but the defense could be the star of this year's edition. With seven returning starters, don't expect Bama to be too lenient when it comes to yardage. It all adds up to another top ten team and a bowl appearance. So what else is new?

OUTLOOK

Offensive: *Passing-fair, Rushing-excellent.*

Defense: *Against passing-excellent, Against rushing-excellent.*

LSU (8-4)

The 1978 Tigers of LSU have some hills to climb in 1978, but the prognosis appears brighter than it has been for them in the past several years.

Several factors lend themselves to this optimistic outlook: All-America Charles Alexander, a leading candidate for the Heisman Trophy, returns for his senior year; only 14 of 57 lettermen have been lost and only three from the offense that established lofty marks for which future editions could aim; a third straight banner recruiting year; and the much delayed expansion of Tiger Stadium, thus permitting 76,000 of the LSU faithful to wildly cheer for their team during home engagements.

The major asset, of course, is Charles Alexander. The Texas native established five Southeastern Conference records last year; added 10 LSU marks; was second in the nation in rushing and third in scoring; was tabbed SEC Player of the Year; and was a consensus All-America. The 6-1, 215-pounder rushed for 1,686 yards last year, a 5.4-yard average and scored 17 touchdowns.

Alabama's Johnny Davis hurdles LSU defense in last year's SEC game.

With only two lettermen from the '77 interior offensive line missing, and with both veteran quarterbacks Steve Ensminger and David Woodley back for another season, Alexander "the Great" should be the bellwether of the Tiger attack again.

Fullback LeRoid Jones will be the number one candidate to step into that position and his 4.5 speed should go well with Alexander's 4.4 feet in staying steps ahead of the opposition. Jones gained 167 yards in a backup role last year, averaging 4.8-yards per pop. Both Woodley and Ensminger saw considerable action last year, each excelling at a different phase of the game. Woodley was by far the better runner, averaging 5.9 yards per carry (to Ensminger's 2.9), but Ensminger was much more effective via the air, 952 yards to 212. Coach Charlie McClendon again plans to make judicious use of their individual talents.

The receiving corps is paced by splitback Mike Quintela and split end Carlos Carson. The latter set an LSU record when he nabbed 10 passes for touchdowns during 1977 as a sophomore, and also set an NCAA record when he scored six touchdowns on six consecutive receptions . . . incidentally, those were his first collegiate catches.

Robert Dugas, a 6-3, 265 pounder, anchors the offensive front from his tackle position. He'll be joined by Bill Johnson and center Jay Whitley among last year's regulars. Lou deLauney, Spencer Smith and John Watson are among the monogram winners who will battle for the guard spots.

Defensively, LSU sustained some numerical losses with nine lettermen graduating, including six starters. The line will feature end John Adams and tackles George Atiyeh and Kent Broha. Adams led the team in tackles and fumble recoveries.

Jay Bliss and Willie Gunnels should battle for the remaining end vacancy created by the graduation of Lew Sibley.

George Cupit, the third leading tackler last year, returns at linebacker, but the Bengals may miss Steve Ripple, the No. 2 man statistically last season. Also gone is Bobby Moreau, another starter. Craig Hensley, Thad Minaldi and Lyman White will vie for the two open positions.

The defensive secondary has been particularly hard-hit, losing three of four starters. Only cornerback Willie Teal returns. But the Bengals are hoping for a bonus in the person of Clinton Burrell. This three-year letterman was considered one of the finest defensive backs in LSU history, and a certain All-Americaa until he injured a knee against Kentucky in 1976 and hasn't played a down since. Two operations later Burrell is trying to win a starting job, even though he continues to sustain therapeutic treatments. If he doesn't make it, Chris Williams likely will start opposite Teal.

Rusty Brown and Dennis Kimble are among the host of candidates for the safety spots but they'll have to fight off several youngsters up from the Baby Bengals.

Kicking specialist Mike Conway again will be in charge of the placements after booting six-of-10 field goals and 28-of-29 extra points in '77. Punter Bobby Moreau will be among the missing, however, John Adams probably assuming the job.

The LSU schedule is not an ambitious one as far as non-conference opponents are concerned with Indiana, Wake Forest, Rice, Tulane and

LSU's Charles Alexander go goes.

Wyoming on the bill. The Tigers should do well here. However the SEC part of the sked has many pitfalls, including excersions to Alabama, Florida, Kentucky and Mississippi State. Those places have been known to be not overly friendly towards visiting football teams. Only Mississippi and Georgia come to Baton Rouge.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The Bengals will have an explosive offense again, thanks largely to Alexander, and should post another fine record. However, it looks as though the Bengals will fall short in the SEC race by virtue of a schedule that has them on the road against the major competition.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-fair, Rushing-excellent*
Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-fair*

MISSISSIPPI (5-6)

Steve Sloan, who helped return Texas Tech to national prominence, has accepted the same mandate at the University of Mississippi: Return Ole Miss football to the ranks of championship caliber, reminiscent of the glory days of old.

Sloan has 14 starters returning, seven each on offense and defense, but the eight departed regulars were, in some instances, key performers.

First there's All-SEC defensive end George Plasketes,who leadership ability will be missed as much as his 111 tackles in 1977. Then comes quarterback Tim Ellis, the No. 2 all-time passer in Miss History behind only Archie Manning.

Other key losses include linebacker Kem Coleman, a four-year starter, fullback James Storey and split end Robert Fabris.

On the bright side are 39 returning lettermen, including, perhaps, the most outstanding kicking combination in college football. Barefooted punter Jim Miller was the national champion (45.9-yard average) last year while placekicker Hoppy Langley, already is the No. 3 Ole Miss career scorer. Both are only juniors.

On offense, the group of returning starters is led by tight end Curtis Weathers, a second-team all-conference selection who had 23 receptions and a 17.1-yard average, in addition to four scores.

Ken Toler is the favorite at split end with Les Kimbrough the incumbent at flanker. Toler is just a sophomore, but Kimbrough, a senior, has plenty of experinece.

Mammoth center Chuck Commiskey (6-5, 250) anchors a still young but fairly experienced interior line. Commiskey, guard Mickey Thames and tackle Jim Hawkins earned starting roles last year as sophomores while tackle Terrence Walker was a junior. David Traxler, a junior with one letter, will inherit the other tackle position.

Leon Perry and fast Freddie Williams split time at tailback a year ago with fine results. Perry rolled for 479 yards and a 4.4-yard norm while Williams added 433 and a 5.4-yard average. Sloan will experiment with Perry at fullback so as to use both he and Williams in tandem, but if the move proves unsuccessful, Roger Gordon, a 5.5-yard rusher, can play fullback.

The offensive key, however, is at quarterback where Bobby Garner returns for his senior year. Garner was a starter for six games in 1977 but faces stiff competition from junior Jim Lear and several newcomers.

Garner's stats are impressive: 33 of 56 passes (58.9 percent) for 462 yards, three scores and only two interceptions. Garner also gained 228 yards on the ground.

Defensively, four of five starting interior lineman, a linebacker and a pair of secondary regulars return from a unit which finished third in the SEC in both total defense and defense against the run.

The line crew is headed by tackle Lawrence Johnson, a second team All-SEC pick in 1976. He'll be joined by nose guard Brian Niebuhr and tackle Charlie Cage in what should be a very tough middle.

Bob Grefseng is back at one end with John Peel, Quentin McDonald and Eric Smith vying on the other side.

Eddie Cole returns at strongside linebacker but Brian Moreland has big cleats to fill on the weakside.

Cornerback William Day and free safety Jon Fabris are back in the secondary, but they'll each be breaking in new mates. Willie Burns looks like he'll win the cornerback spot with Joel Stewart starting, too. In another experiment, Day will move from the corner to free safety, Fabris over to strong safety and Stewart will take over at cornerback.

A problem with the defense could be leadership as both Plasketes and Coleman filled that role last year. Nevertheless, Sloan is the inspirational type and morale should not be a defensive problem.

Mississippi has scheduled six SEC opponents this year including Georgia, Kentucky, Vanderbilt, LSU, Tennessee and Mississippi State. Also on the slate are Memphis State, Missouri, Southern Mississippi, South Carolina and Tulane. It is not a particularly tough schedule (no Alabama or Notre Dame — yeah, right, the Rebels beat the Irish last year) but Ole Miss will need some breathers to rebuild.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Sloan is a proven winner and he didn't inherit a team with a tremendous talent gap, either. Still, Ole Miss will experience some transition problems although the overall feeling is that Sloan will soon have this team winging into SEC contention. It won't happen this year, but the Rebels will be improved.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-good, Rushing-good*
Defense: *Against passing-good, Against rushing-very good*

KENTUCKY (10-1)

When spring football drills began March 1, Wildcat coach Fran Curci had the unenviable task of trying to replace five All-Southeastern Conference players, including a consensus All-America (Art Still)and team leaders in rushing, passing, scoring, receiving, punting, punt returns, kickoff returns, interceptions and tackles. We're not sure, but the best looking cheerleader probably graduated too.

Leader in three of those categories—rushing (618 yards), passing (892 yards), and scoring (80 points)—was Derrick Ramsey, a third-team All-America who quarterbacked the Wildcats to a 6-0 Southeastern Conference record and their best season (10-1) in 27 years.

Heir apparent to Ramsey's throne is Mike Deaton, whose 36-yard pass to Felix Wilson late in the fourth quarter against Tennessee put the Wildcats in position to come from behind and defeat the Vols, 21-17 in the final game of the year.

Deaton saw action in eight games last season as a sophomore, completing nine of 27 passes for 161 yards and two touchdowns.

Wilson, who was second leading receiver, had 14 receptions for 247 yards and three TDs. He returns with

Rod Stewart heads KU infantry.

Richard Jaffe tops Wildcat "D."

Freddie Williams, third leading receiver with 10 grabs for 87 yards and one score.

Ramsey and two other graduating seniors—Joe Dipre (399 yds.) and Chuck Servino (98 yds.)—combined for 1,115 of the Wildcats' 2,486 yards rushing. Returning are Randy Brooks (375 yds.), Freddie Williams (366 yds.), Chris Hill (338 yds.), Robert Hawkins (132 yds.), Rod Stewart (116 yds.) and Henry Park (61 yds.), in addition to Deaton.

Stewart, most valuable offensive player in the 1976 Peach Bowl and UK's leading rusher (711 yds.) that season, was injured against Baylor last year and missed the remaining nine games of the season. Brooks missed three games with an injury.

The offensive line loses All-SEC guard Tom Dornbrook and center Will Grant, but the nucleus of a fine unit returns. Tackles Dan Fowler and Larry Petkovsek join guard Tom Kearns as holdovers. Dave Hopewell started at center before being injured in mid-season.

Besides Still, the defense loses a pair of all-conference deep backs, Dallas Owens and Mike Siganos.

Siganos led the team in punt returns with 43 for 308 yards. Owens was team leader in interceptions (four for 104 yards) and kickoff returns (eight for 120 yards).

Mike Martin and Jerry Blanton, the top two tacklers of '77, have graduated leaving Richard Jaffe, who was third a year ago (Still was fourth) as the key returnee. Jaffe led the team in solo tackles.

Returning to the defensive backfield are starters Larry Carter, halfback; Rick Hayden, safety; Ritchie Boyd, who started two games when Hayden was injured, and John Bow, who started the final game when Siganos was out with an ailment.

Jaffe will man the noseguard position with Tom Gooch, a starter until injured, vying with James Ramey and Bob Winkel for the tackle spots.

Bud Diehl and David Stephens, who alternated at the end opposite Still, both return. Craig Roberts also will compete for Still's old position.

Veteran linebackers returning are Kelly Kirchbaum and Dave Fadrowski. Carl Marrillia and Robb Chaney also saw action at that position. Lester Boyd will return, too, after being redshirted.

Big shoes must be filled in placekicker Joe Bryant, who hit nine of 20 field goal attempts, including two 51-yarders against Florida and a school-record equalling 52-yarder against Virginia Tech, and connected on 23 of 28 extra point attempts. His understudy last season was Brad Adams, who did not see action.

Also missing will be punter Kevin Kelly, who kicked 58 times for 2,305 yards (39.7 avg.). Rick Hayden was back-up kicker the preceding year but did not punt in '77.

Major non-conference foes on Kentucky's schedule include Penn State and Maryland. There's also a rematch with Baylor (the only team to defeat the Wildcats last year), South Carolina and Virginia Tech. Still no Alabama, but that meeting will take place finally in 1980 when Oklahoma also is added to the schedule.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Kentucky seems to have more problems than Bert Lance. Since Curci won't resign (like Lance) just yet, it could be a trying year in Lexington. Ramsey did everything—and well, while Still was an inspirational defensive leader. Rod Stewart should help fill the rushing void but there are just too many problems for Kentucky to come close to matching last year's accomplishments. And don't forget about finding that good looking cheerleader, either.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-fair, Rushing-good*
Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-good*

TENNESSEE (4-7)

In sharp contrast to a year ago, when Johnny Majors began his first coaching year at Tennessee wondering who would play quarterback, the volunteer head coach in 1978 will look forward to the return of a tested signal-caller. In all, Majors has eight offensive regulars back from the team that walloped Vanderbilt in the season's finale, 42-7 and extended once-beaten Kentucky, 21-17, before losing the week before.

Jimmy Streater emerged from the pack to take control of the Vols at mid-season and optimism is running high that Streater can do an even better job this go round, now that the QB spot is officially his. Last year he hit 56.2 percent of his passes and carried the ball 136 times, second only to workhorse running back Kelsey Finch.

If Streater's development as No. 1 quarterback raised some eyebrows, the identity of his top receiver was far more astounding. Reggie Harper, like Streater, didn't win his starting assignment until mid-season, but by the end of the year, he had caught more passes (30) than any other freshman tight end in the history of the Southeastern Conference. The Vols air game should be strong again as wingback Billy Arbo (20 catches) and split end Jeff Moore (18 grabs), also return giving the Vols their top three receivers from 1977.

Tennessee's running attack, which sputtered and stalled too often last year, should be at least as strong, and probably stronger, than last year. Except for graduated quarterback Pat Ryan, every back who had his hands on the ball last year will return. The infantry will be led by Finch, whose electrifying 99-yard scrimmage jaunt against Florida was the highlight of the season. He had a 5.0-yard average and scored eight touchdowns.

The fullback spot will be filled by either Nate Sumpter, Jesse Briggs or Bobby Emmons. Sumpter came on late and wound up averaging 5.8-yards per carry.

Robert Shaw, named All-SEC as a junior, will be the mainstay of an offensive line that is uncertain for the second straight year. Guard could be one position that is potentially strong with the return of Jay Williams and Bill Marren. Williams, a 1977 freshman, took over a first-team right guard position last year, and Marren should be at full strength again after missing most of last season with a knee injury. Blane Tidwell has a letter at tackle, but both those spots are still up for grabs.

Tennessee's defense, up and down most of last year, finished with something of a flourish by yielding ground grudgingly against Kentucky and then shutting down Vanderbilt almost completely. The comparatively strong stretch performance could have created a false sense of well-being about Tennessee's defensive prospects for 1978.

The truth is that the defense was pretty well depleted by graduation, the losses including three of the team's top four tacklers and eight regulars in all. If the defense is to improve, it will be without the contribution of linebacker Greg Jones, tackle Danny Jenkins and end David Barron. Jones and Jenkins in particular were recognized as the heartbeat of the defensive effort last year.

Their departure creates voids that won't be easily filled, even with the arrival of a well-regarded crop of freshmen signees (one national

magazine rates the Vol recruiting job as the nation's best.)

Decimation was especially brutal along the five-man front where the only returnee is Jim Noonan, the fireplug middle guard who stands but 5-9, weighs only 205, but plays inches and pounds above that. Noonan led the team in tackles last year with 150.

The outside linebacker (ends) posts probably will be manned by Steve Davis and Dennis Wolfe. Wolfe was a starter early in '77.

The starting tackle spots might go to redshirt Brad White and letterman Glenn Tucker, although sophs Brian Ingram and Bill Christian will have something to say about that.

An interesting fight looms, too, at linebacker where Craig Puki is making a comeback after knee surgery. He's the favorite on the weakside with Chris Bolton and Lyonel Stewart vying on the strongside.

A proven standout in the secondary is Roland James, a two year regular whose return could make left cornerback one of the Vols' strongest positions. Val Barksdale, Clark Duncan and Chip Linebarier also are in the picture.

The kicking game loses two blue-chippers in Craig Colquitt and Jim Gaylor. Colquitt averaged 44.7 yards and Tennessee's punt coverage made the Vols national leaders in net punting average. Gaylor, meanwhile, hit on nine-of-17 field goal attempts and all 24 extra points.

Tennessee will face an extremely challenging schedule in 1978, including Notre Dame and UCLA among its non-conference rivals. Alabama and Kentucky are among SEC rivals that will visit Knoxville.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Majors has begun the rebuilding process and rewards should be reaped immediately — on offense. However, the defense is lagging far behind and the Vols' schedule is a tough one. Progress should come, but it may not be dramatic in terms of a winning record.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-very good, Rushing-good.*
Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-fair.*

MISS. ST. (5-6)

Bob Tyler's cup is only half full—11 starters return—but the Bulldogs' head coach is optimistic that a change in systems and an enthusiastic effort will result in a return to winning ways.

Mississippi State will retain the Pro Set offense, adopted at the tail end of last year over the Wishbone. "It suits our personnel better," says Tyler simply.

Just as important to Tyler is the attitude his troops have projected. "The hustle and enthusiasm by a lot of people has been pleasing. And a lot of people have demonstrated they want to win."

Strengths for the '78 Bulldogs should be a host of good runners and talented receivers. Weaknesses may include coming up with several offensive line replacements and a quarterback to take the place of Bruce Threadgill, a three-year starter.

During spring practice Dave Marler, who served as a kicking specialist a year ago, made a deep impression on Tyler and his staff and moved up to the No. 1 slot. Marler was a quarterback at Mississippi College before transferring two years ago.

Also figuring prominently in the quarterback picture are Steve Wohlert, a senior redshirt, and a pair of promising sophomores, Dwayne Drown and Gary Schaffhauser.

Mardye McDole, a freshman All-America, Breck Tyler, Robert Chatman and David Ellis form a deep and talented receiving corps. McDole led the Bulldogs in '77 with 29 receptions for 510 yards while Chatman had 22 grabs for 266 yards. Tyler had 11 receptions for 233 yards.

"We will definitely throw more than we did last season," admitted Tyler. "We may even be a 50-50 team, with equal balance between the run and pass."

Tyler also has many experienced running backs on hand. James Jones, who gained 400 yards on but 67 carries last fall (6.0) certainly will start at one running slot with either Len Copeland (4.8), Fred Collins or James "The Hoss" Doss alongside. Both Collins and Doss are fullbacks.

Chris Quillian returns to anchor the line at center, but his backup of a year ago, Alan Hartlein, has been promoted to a starting tackle berth. Robby Scholtes, a growing 6-4, 250-pound sophomore, holds down the other tackle spot.

The top guards at the end of spring were returning starter Alan Massey and Matt Edwards.

Bill Maxey, Steve Fleming and Bo Myrick lead the pack at tight end.

The Bulldogs, who will continue running a '50' defense, have a pair of holdover starters at defensive send, Bobby Molden and Fred Pepper, along with Raymond Peyton, who also started some games.

Lonnie Greene, Tyrone Keys and Chuck Maier are the top tackle candidates.

Jackie McCorvey is leading the way at middle guard, while the top linebackers are Ricky Williams, Johnie Cooks and Rusty Martin.

Gerald Jackson returns at strong safety, while Kenny Johnson is back at free safety. Johnson had 67 solo tackles and 37 assists last season while Jackson was credited with 57 stops and 34 assists. Johnson came up with four pass interceptions; Jackson had three thefts.

After laying out a year of redshirt service, Richard Blackmore returns to the left cornerback slot. Henry Monroe rounds out the No. 1 secondary at right corner.

James Streater directs Vol attack.

Secondary backups include Randy Griffin, Willie Jackson, David Bean and Larry Friday.

The kicking game should be more than adequate with Jim Nabers returning to do the punting and Marler the placement kicking. Nabers averaged 39.7 yards on 56 punts a year ago.

Marlar was the Bulldogs' leading scorer with 57 points, hitting 18 of 19 conversions and 13 of 26 field goal attempts.

The Bulldogs, who played more than a dozen first-year men in '77, are counting on help again from a fine incoming freshman crop.

Mississippi State has a challenging schedule, highlighted by SEC foes Tennessee, Alabama, Auburn, LSU and Mississippi the last five weeks of the season. Also on the slate is Florida, Southern Mississippi, Memphis State, Florida State, and a pair of Texas schools—West Texas State and North Texas State.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The Bulldogs were one of college football's major disappointments last year but Tyler has a chance now to make amends. The schedule is a challenging one, and there are some holes to fill, but with a good effort and a little luck, Mississippi State could nudge over .500 again.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-good, Rushing-good*
Defense: *Against passing-good, Against rushing-good*

Steve Sloan rebuilds the Rebels.

Doug Barfield manages half-grin.

AUBURN (5-6)

Forty lettermen, including 14 starters (seven each on offense and defense) are back for coach Doug Barfield, but the Tiger mentor still is concerned with an experience problem. "With only 10 seniors on the squad, we will still be a very young team. We feel we have some fine young talent. Ten freshmen have lettered each of the last two seasons. Last year three of out four first team All-SEC selections were sophomores," said Barfield.

Auburn missed a .500 season but was a mild surprise in the SEC with a 4-2 league mark last year. The entire backfield returns so Barfield again will emphasize the Tigers' offensive skills.

The running back corps is particularly deep and talented. Joe Cribbs and James Brooks are competent tailbacks and William Andrews is a powerful fullback. Cribbs led the squad in rushing last year, rolling for 872 yards in 161 carries for a 5.4-yard average. Brooks had 467 yards and a 4.4 norm. Andrews, i- addition to gaining 635 yards (4.6) with five touchdowns, also proved a proficient lead blocker for Cribbs and Brooks.

No. 1 quarterback Charlie Trotman returns to call signals for the Tigers. Trotman, a slight 175-pounder, his 23 of 47 aerials for 389 yards last year as a freshman. Having payed his neophyte dues, Barfield expects that Trotman will show marked improvement now that he's had a taste of league competition.

Auburn primarily is a running team, with a nearly 5-2 ratio in ground to aerial yardage, but the Tigers may attempt to throw more, expecially with the return of all their top receivers. Split end Byron Franklin is the most dangerous, averaging 29.9 yards per each of his 13 catches last year. He hit paydirt three times. Also returning is flanker Mark Robbins who had 10 receptions for 124 yards last season.

Tight end Reese McCall has graduated, but he caught but three passes last year and was used primarily as a blocker.

An area of concern for Barfield is the offensive line where center Marvin Trott, guard Lynn Johnson and tackle Mike Skelton all have graduated. Senior tackle Mike Burrow, a robust 6-5, 260-pounder, will be this year's offensive line leader. He'll be joined by a pair of promising sophomores, guard George Stephenson and tackle Jim Skuthan.

The maturity of Stephenson and Skuthan will go a long was in determining just how effective the Auburn running and passing game is.

The Auburn kicking game is seen as a strength by Barfield, but the need for a long snapper bothers him. "We do not have a long snapper and must find one to replace Tom Nettleman," groans Barfield. But if he can get someone to snap the ball, the kicking game should be good.

Placement specialist Jorge Portela converted 19 of 21 extra points and 15 of 22 field goal attempts to lead the Tigers in scoring last year. Such accomplishments led to his selection as All-SEC placekicker and an honorable mention All-America.

Skip Johnston returns to do the punting after compiling a 40.8-yard average in 55 boots last year. None were blocked.

There is room for improvement on defense, and with seven regulars returning, Barfield is hopeful he'll get it.

The unit will be paced by linebacker Freddie Smith, Auburn's top tackler from 1977. In fact, not only did Smith make the most stops last year, but his 114 individual tackles and 79 assists were an all-time Auburn record. He was the Tigers' leading tackler in 10 of their 11 games and Auburn's Defensive Player of the Year.

Another blue-chipper is free safety James McKinney. As a sophomore starter in 1977, he led the SEC in pass interceptions with five and was selected first-team All-SEC by the Associated Press. His individual coverage of Wes Chandler in the Florida game — he had two thefts — was instrumental in Auburn's 29-14 upset victory.

"With only four games on campus, including just one home SEC game, we must establish ourselves early as a road team," commented Barfield after looking at the Auburn schedule. Actually, Auburn was pretty good on the road last year, beating Tennessee and Georgia in their home parks. This year's schedule has the Tigers on the road against Kansas State, Virginia Tech, Tennessee, Vanderbilt, Florida, Mississippi State and Alabama. The Tennessee game is in Birmingham. Only Miami, Georgia Tech, Wake Forest and Georgia visit Jordan-Hare Stadium in Auburn.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The forming of an offensive line is the key to success this year for Auburn. With the "skill" positions well set, should the line fill in, then Auburn will be an improved team. But, if the line is a liability, the Tigers won't reach .500 again. Seven of 11 games on the road won't help that much either.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-fair, Rushing-good*
Defense: *Against passing-good, Against rushing-fair*

VANDERBILT (2-9)

Vanderbilt head coach Fred Pancoast knows he can count on "The Sheriff" for the 1978 football season. It's rounding up the "Sheriff's" posse, both offensively and defensively, that is the key task facing Pancoast's staff as the Commodores attempt to snap back from two consecutive 2-9 seasons.

The "Sheriff," as he is known by to Vandy fans, is All-Southeastern Conference middle linebacker Ed Smith, who racked up 155 tackles last year despite playing all 11 games with a severe shoulder injury that required surgery immediately after the season.

Smith is one of 40 returning lettermen for the Commodores, who lost 20 monogram-winners to graduation. Vandy returns six offensive and six defensive regulars from last year's club.

Pancoast lists the Commodores' top priorities as the quarterback situation in the event Mike Wright decides to go into pro baseball,", says Pancoast. Wright led the SEC in passing last year as a junior but also is an ALL-SEC baseball performer who will be eligible for the Major League draft this summer.

Competing in the quarterback sweepstakes are Scotti Madison, Josh Hellstrom, David Skinner and Van Heflin. Significantly, none of the four has ever taken a snap in a college game.

"Our second biggest concern is the defensive line, where we lost three of our four starters to graduation," says Pancoast. All-SEC performer Dennis Harrison and dependable Mitch Lilly, the starting Vandy tackles for the past two years, have graduated along with Kimmie Weaver, a regular end.

Ronald Hale, a 6-7, 321-pound redshirt, will get first crack at left tackle with fellow soph Ricky Dean probably No. 1 at right tackle.

Mike Gothard, a returning starter, and Tim English should make up the terminals.

Linebacking, of course, will be a strength. Besides Smith, Pancoast welcomes back last year's other two

regulars, John Pointer and Randy Sittason.

The Vanderbilt secondary has ranked second, first and third, respectively, in the SEC in pass defense during the last three years and should be solid again this year despite the graduation of second team All-SEC free safety Bernard Wilson and Reggie Calvin, a four-year starter at cornerback.

Strong safety Ronnie Myrick and cornerback Walter "Bugs" Jordan, are the returning starters with Roy Williams pencilled in at free safety and Tim Barret at the other corner.

The offenseive game will be built around a strong running contingent featuring fullback Frank Mordica, a 559-yard producer last year.

A pair of sophs, Eddie Hood and Terry Potter, are battling for the number one tailback position. Potter averaged 5.6-yards per carry in limited action.

Preston Brown is an All-SEC candidate at flanker. Despite spending most of the season at tailback, Brown caught 23 passes for 146 yards. Pancoast feels that by moving Brown outside he'll be able to take advantage of his brilliant 9.3 speed. In addition to running and receiving, Brown is also a premier kickoff and punt return artist, as evidenced by his record-tying 100-yard return against Ole Miss.

Greg Eveland returns at tight end, but Joey Smith and John McCain are challenging.

A key loss is All-SEC performer Martin Cox from his split end position. Charles Edwards, a part-time starter at flanker last year, will inherit the spot.

Pancoast hopes for considerable improvement in the offensive line despite the loss of two regulars. Left tackle Jeff Dungan was named to the SEC All-Freshmen team last year and could be a real good one. Mark Matlock and Jerry Roberts hold forth at right tackle. Mike Ralston, a possible "All" candidate, is at one guard with Scott Ilgenfritz probable on the other side. John Wooten is the center.

Cody Whitt averaged 40.5 yards per punt last year as a freshman and will return for those chores again in '78. Whitt could also land the placement job, although he'll get some competition from incoming freshman Mike Woodward.

The Vanderbilt schedule is not an easy one. Two major bowl winner—Alabama (Sugar) and Arkansas (Cotton)—must be played on the road, as well as tough away contests with Georgia and Kentucky.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Vanderbilt wasn't as bad as its record last year—the Commodores lost to Oklahama by two and to Alabama by 12—and could show some improvement this year. If the offense can carry a reasonable share of burden, then Vandy's defense ought to be just fine. The Commodores aren't about to set the SEC afire, but they might cause a disturbance or two along the way to a better record.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-good, Rushing fair*
Defense: *Against passing-good, Against rushing fair*

FLORIDA (6-4-1)

Coach Doug Dickey faces a massive rebuilding program at Florida as eight starters have graduated from the Gator offense that produced 251 points and an exciting brand of football last year.

"We have as much work to do offensively as we've ever had," moans Dickey. "Installing a new offense will create the most change we've had in the last four years."

Further complicating Dickey's plans for installing a new offense is the questionable status of last year's starting quarterback, Terry LeCount. Technically, LeCount has used up his playing time, but could gain another year's eligibility under the frosh redshirt rule. If LeCount is able to play—right now the betting is that he will not—then Florida's offense will receive an immediate boost. LeCount threw for 848 aerial yards (including an 85-yard TD bomb) and ran for 628 (including a 74-yard TD jaunt). The double threat signal-caller led the Gators in total offense and gave opposing defenses fits.

If LeCount has used up his eligibility, then the quarterback role likely will go to John Brantley, LeCount's backup last year, who was excused from Spring drills this year to play baseball. With quarterback so unsettled, Dickey must look elsewhere for a place from which to build. But where?

Only three starters are back, fullback Tony Robinson, and guards Don Swafford and Mark Midden. Everyone else has walked the commencement line.

Equally important to LeCount's receptions last year with 25 for 490 yards and a 19.6 average in addition to picking up 353 yards on the ground (5.8 avg.) and leading the team in kickoff and punt returns. Gone too, is split end Derrick Gaffney, who averaged a spectacular 22.8 yards per each of his 14 receptions and whose 99-yard TD catch equaled the NCAA record last year.

Tony Stephens (12 catches last year), will start at wide receiver with Juan Collins (five receptions) at tight end.

Gary Leonard is a two-year letterman who could win a starting tackle berth this year, the same being true for center Doug Schroeder.

Besides Chandler, who moved from halfback to end depending on the offensive alignment, the Gators have lost their No. 1 ball-carrier from 1977, Tony Green. Green rushed for 696 yards and a 5.8-yard average to lead the Gators in both those categories last season.

David Johnson, who averaged 4.4 yards per carry in 44 rushes last season, will be at one running back

Preston Brown is Vandy burner.

spot with Tony Waters assuming the other halfback role when Florida goes to a three back set. Waters is virtually inexperienced, carrying the ball just twice last season.

Tony Robinson will be at fullback and Dickey may want to use him more than the 20 times he carried the ball last year.

Defensively, the picture is somewhat brighter with six regulars returning. However, defense was not Florida's strong suit last year and, admits Dickey, "the veterans must prove their intensity to play the game."

Further complicating the problem is the physical condition of linebacker Scott Brantley, the Gator's best defensive player. Brantley missed Spring drills nursing a knee injury.

On the line, end Michael Dupree and tackle Melvin Flourney return but replacements must be found for the other three spots. Leading candidates are David Galloway (end), Greg Tennell and Dock Luckie (tackle) and James Harrell (middle guard).

Brantley's linebacking mate will come from among David Little, Jim Dreis and Yancey Sutton.

The secondary is potentially strong with the return of three of last year's four starters. Derrick Burdgess, Chuck Hatch and Skipper Peek will break in a new partner this year.

The kicking game is of great concern to Dickey since punter Alan Williams, placement specialist Berj Yepremian and snapper Larry Cline all have graduated.

The Florida schedule is similar to last year's with seven repeaters. Alabama has replaced Tennessee

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among SEC foes with Army, Georgia Tech and SMU in place of Pittsburgh, Utah and Rice.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The Gators' offense has been decimated by graduation and the defense, at best spotty last year, appears incapable of picking up the slack. Big play artists LeCount (probably), Chandler and Green will be sorely missed and it doesn't appear their replacements can do the job. Looks like a rebuilding year for Dickey.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-poor, Rushing-fair.*
Defense: *Against passing-very good, Against rushing-fair.*

GEORGIA (5-6)

After suffering his first losing season in 14 campaigns with the Bulldogs last year, Georgia coach Vince Dooley faces an even rougher season in 1978.

First the good news.

Seven starters return offensively. The bad news is that Georgia's offense was mostly inept and nonproductive last year. The unit will be paced by quarterback Jeff Pyburn, who showed flashes of brillance in the eight games in which he played. Pyburn threw for 312 yards and ran for another 348 but like his Bulldog teammates, was maddingly inconsistent.

In a effort to help Pyburn and his offensive contingent, Dooley has scrapped the veer and will return to the "I" formation after a five-year absence. The Bulldogs used the "I" during their 11-1 1971 season, and because of the high risk associated with the veer (Georgia set a school record for fumbles in '77 with 57), Dooley has opted to return to it. The Georgia coach hopes the "I" will cut down on his team's mistakes and open the offense up in order to throw the ball more. Georgia will retain parts of the veer, however, to maintain the option series.

Despite the new system, Pyburn is likely to miss halfback Kevin McLee, a 717-yard provider last year who led the team in rushing. James Womack, who saw considerable duty last year as a freshman (fourth leading rushing on the team) could fill in for McLee but he's being pushed by Mathew Jackson, a transfer from Ohio State who was a reserve wingback on the Buckeyes' Orange Bowl team of 1976.

Willie McClendon, who rushed for only 12 less yards than McLee in 62 fewer carries (for a sparkling 6.1-yards per carry average) returns to the other running back spot.

Flanker Jesse Murray has graduated but ends Mark Hodge and Ulysses Norris return. Hodge and Norris both were used regularly last year when Georgia went to a two tight end offense. Both snared 11 passes last season but that is testimony more to Georgia's penchant for the ground game than it is to Hodge and Norris' ability to catch the football.

In the trenches, Georgia has lost All-America guard George Collins and tackle Steve Collier. Jeff Harper, another transfer, likely will assume the guard spot while Tim Morrison, a parttime starter as a freshman in 1977, will take Collier's place. Mark Guest and Jim Milo will hold forth on the left side at tackle and guard, respectively, while Ray Donaldson returns to the pivot.

If Dooley has holes on offense, then his defense resembles swiss cheese. Georgia loses eight starters, many of them three-year regulars on the famed "Junkyard Dogs" defensive unit. Every starting linebacker and all of the secondary has graduated, so defensive coordinator Erk Russell faces a massive rebuilding year.

Senior Paul Petriski, who started a couple of games for the Bulldogs in 1977, likely will move into the tackle position vacated by All-SEC performer Ronnie Swoopes. Although not a bona-fide starter, senior Ricky McBride has enough playing time to move into the weakside linebacker slot left open by All-American Ben Zambiasi, who finished his career as the leading tackler in Georgia history. Sophomore Frank Ros, a defensive standout on the '77 Georgia JV team, will inherit the spot while junior Danny Rogers will get a chance at middle linebacker.

Junior Pat Collins, who backed up All-America rover Bill Krug last season, is the heir apparent at that position.

Several people have opportunities for starting positions in the graduation-depleted secondary, but sophs Scott Woerner, who was 10th in the nation last season in kickoff return yards with 546 for a 24.8 average, likely will earn a starting berth at safety while senior Robert Hope is expected to play at one of the corners.

Georgia's schedule features six SEC foes, but not Alabama. Only Ole Miss and Vanderbilt are in Athens. Non-conference opponents include Baylor, Clemson, South Carolina, VMI and Georgia Tech.

Georgia returns both kickers from 1977 but improvement must be gained. Rex Robinson was the team's leading scorer as a freshman by virtue of 10 of 20 field goal accuracy and 15 and 16 PATs. Mike Garrett returns to do the punting but his 37.5-yard average ranked last in the final conference statistics.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Georgia will be rebuilding in 1978 with a younger cast and not much is expected in terms of won-lost. The Bulldogs will be operating out of a new offensive set and with eight new faces on defense. Neither is likely to scare the opposition.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-fair, Rushing-good*
Defense: *Against passing-poor, Against rushing-poor*

'Horns and Hogs Just Like Old Times

SWC CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE COMPARISON

TEAM	PREDICTED FINISH	LETTERMEN		STARTERS RET.		STARTERS LOST	
		Returning	Lost	Offense	Defense	Offense	Defense
Texas	First	35	21	6	9	5	2
Arkansas	Second	42	11	9	8	2	3
Texas A&M	Third	45	12	8	7	3	4
Houston	Fourth	26	15	5	6	6	5
Baylor	Fifth	43	12	9	7	2	4
Texas Tech	Sixth	34	25	3	5	8	6
Southern Methodist	Seventh	33	10	8	8	3	3
Texas Christian	Eighth	49	15	8	8	3	3
Rice	Ninth	52	8	8	11	3	0

TEXAS (11-1)

Nobody, including **FOOTBALL ACTION**, picked Texas to win the Southwest Conference last year. Not only did the Longhors win, but they lingered in the nation's No. 1 spot for longer than any other team, produced the Heisman Trophy winner in Earl Campbell and the Outland Trophy recipient in Brad Shearer, and had what can only be described as one helluva year.

Fred Akers, who came by way of Wyoming in place of resident legend Darryl Royal, won several Coach of the Year honors for the Longhorns' amazing turnabout from 5-5-1 the year before. Part of the reason for Texas' reborn success was the rehabilitation of Campbell from a bum wheel, but one cannot overlook Akers' contribution. The rookie Texas coach switched the Longhorns out of the wishbone and into the veer, thereby better utilizing Campbell's talents and making the pass a viable alternative again. The combination produced one of the most exciting and productive offenses in the nation and led Texas right back into the Cotton Bowl.

Of course, the fact that Notre Dame turned Texas cotton whites into Leprechaun green only gives the Longhorns and their followers a more loftier goal to shoot for. The SWC title and the Cotton Bowl are fine, but No. 1 once again is the goal. In that respect, at least, Texas has indeed returned to the Royal era.

With nine regulars returning from the unit that held many highly regarded foes to a combined output of just 152 points, the defense appears to be the dominant factor in this year's Longhorn squad. Only tackle Brad Shearer and linebacker Morgan Copeland won't be in the lineup when Texas visits Rice in the season's opener on September 16.

But Akers has little to fret about. Even without Shearer and Copeland, Texas' defense figures to be bad news for opponents. Lance Taylor, last season's leading stopper from his linebacker post, is back to insure that Texas does not provide more than the 2.1 yards per carry it afforded the opposition last year. He'll be joined by Mark Martignoni with Chuck Holloway, Robin Sendlein and Bruce Scholtz also seeing plenty of action.

The line will feature ends Henry Williams and Tim Campbell, tackle Steve McMichael and Ken McCune, making the move successfully from end to tackle, taking Shearer's place. Texas is so deep defensively though, that as many as four players are sometimes listed at given positions. Those expected to also lend a hand include Bill Acker, John Tobolka and Dwight Jefferson.

The complete secondary, featuring Glenn Backwood, Derrick Hatchett, Ricky Churchman and Johnny Johnson, returns intact. That unit permitted only 107 of 266 completions (40 percent) and eight touchdowns.

Akers will have six returning starters to his offensive unit, including quarterback Randy McEacheron, whose knee gave way during a passing-no contact drill. The injury—they say—was not serious and McEacheron should be ready by the fall. Even if he's not, Mark McBath has starting experience. Not knowing who'll be calling signals is nothing new to Akers. Last year, injuries saw him use four different quarterbacks and it didn't seem to make much difference. McEacheron, actually, was No. 4 at one point.

Either man is more than adequate. McEacheron had the better passing statistics—906 yards on over 50 percent and twice as many TDs as interceptions—but McBath was the superior runner, an 8.2 yard average to McEacheron's 2.3.

Ham Jones was particularly impressive in spring drills and will replace Campbell in the "I" while retaining his right halfback spot in the veer. Jones had a 5.3 yard average and 489 yards last year.

Kermit Goode was promoted to No. 1 at left halfback after the first scrimmage and should start against Rice.

Johnny Lam Jones, who can play either halfback or flanker, also returns. Jones led the receiving corps last year with 21 receptions for 543 yards and seven touchdowns.

There have been a few position changes instituted by Akers at receiver and along the offensive front. Quarterback Sanford Coggins has been moved to flanker while QB Mike Cordaro is the new split end. Guard Craig Rider, a starter in '77 until injured in the Oklahoma game, has been moved to left tackle. He'll join regulars Gil Harris at tight end, guard Jim Yarbrough and center Wes

Hubert. Sammy Smith has nailed down the other guard spot. Gary Sayre will occupy the other tackle position.

Another big plus for Texas is the return of Russell Erxleben, the nation's premier kicking specialist. Erxleben averaged 45.9 yards per punt and kicked 14 of 26 field goals, including a record 67-yarder.

The only tough opponent for Texas among the non-conference foes is Oklahoma, and that promises to be another barnburner. Arkansas and Texas A&M, perennial SWC stalwarts, must visit Austin, but the Texas Tech game is on the road.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Texas has the makings of another outstanding football team. The defense will be among the finest in the nation and the offense will suffer less than expected by the departure of Campbell. Erxleben's presence assures good field position and gives the Longhorns a scoring threat of monstrous proportions. The Horns will have to beat Arkansas and Oklahoma again but if last year was any indication, their defense could see them through.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing: good, Rushing-very good*

Defense: *Against passing-superior, Against rushing-superior*

ARKANSAS (11-1)

Despite the return of 17 of 22 starters and 42 of 53 lettermen from the team that went 11-1 and finished third in both polls, coach Lou Holtz is apprehensive in assessing Arkansas' chances this year. Says Holtz: "It's a new year. Things probably look better on paper this year than they did last year, but that doesn't mean a lot. If we continue to improve we can be competitive."

Lou Holtz flashes winning smile.

Competitive? C'mon Lou, you've got to be putting us on.

Arkansas will be more than competitive. Heck, the Razorbacks will be down right devastating.

Look at the offense. Nine starters are back including all-Southwest Conference quarterback Ron Calcagni and two-time rushing kingpin Ben Cowins. Calcagni tossed for 1,147 yards, including 10 TDs, and ran for another 546, a 4.4 yards per carry average. Cowins, meanwhile, rushed for 1,192 yards, a 5.4 average, and hit paydirt 14 times.

When Cowins was kept out of the Orange Bowl for disciplinary reasons, it gave overlooked Roland Sales a chance to perform. And perform he did, rushing for 205 yards and the Bowl MVP.

If defenses try and stack up against the run, Arkansas can pass, especially with the return of last year's three starting receivers. Donny Bobo, the flanker, caught 22 for 5 TDs last year, while split end Robert Farrell had 13 for another score. Tight end Charles Clay chipped in with a half-dozen more grabs. The trio also had outstanding averages, led by Bobo's 20.6 yards per reception. Clay averaged 19.7 yards per catch and Farrell 18.5.

While Arkansas must replace its two best offensive linemen (consensus All-America guard Leotis Harris and left tackle Steve Heim), the Razorbacks do have some impressive returnees. At left guard, Chuck Herman and Mark Lewis share starting duties; Lewis will switch to Harris' right guard position. Center Rick Shumaker is on hand, but he must recover from off-season corrective knee surgery. Highly regarded Greg Kolenda, a 260-pound bull, is back at right tackle.

Arkansas scored 393 points last year (a 32.8 average) and should be very adept at lighting up the scoreboard again this season. Of major concern, however, is the departure of Steve Little, one of the greatest all purpose kickers in collegiate football history. Little was the team's leading scorer last year—he had a 67-yard field goal among his 84 points—and also punted for a 44.3 yard average. Replacing Little will be more than a little trouble for Holtz.

Defensively, the Razorbacks have eight starters back headed by all-SWC tackle Jimmy Walker, all-conference cornerback Vaughn Lusby as well as all-Southwest linebacker Larry Jackson, honored by ABC-TV as the national defensive player of the year in 1977.

In the defensive line, the Razorbacks look particularly good. Walker and seniors Dan Hampton and Dale White provide the most imposing interior in the league, although White is recovering from corrective knee surgery. At end, where four players shared playing time in 1977, Jimmy Howard, Jerry Saxton and Marty Mitcham are back.

Joining Jackson, the big-play man at linebacker, is William Hampton, a two-year starter. In the Razorbacks' 5-2 defense, either could be defensive leader.

If Arkansas has a defensive weakness, it may be in the secondary where all-league performers Howard Sampson and Patrick Martin no longer tread. While Lusby likely will be the premier cornerback in the league, not even a reserve is on hand for the other side. Brad Shoup is one of the hardest-hitting strong safeties around, but Larry White must return from corrective neck surgery and is, at best, a question mark to fill in for Sampson at free safety.

While there are holes to fill in the secondary, opponents may find it difficult passing against the Razorbacks in view of the constant pressure applied by Arkansas' active defensive line. Hog foes found the air waves anything but free last year, completing just 43 percent of their passes, only one for a touchdown. When they rushed the ball, there was only 3.2 yards given up at a clip. In all, Arkansas gave up just 12 touchdowns and 101 points last year, an average of 8.4 points per game. Only Texas A&M was able to score more than one touchdown in a game against the swarming Hog defense, as all others—including Texas and Oklahoma—were held to a lone six-pointer or less.

The Arkansas schedule is not too adventuresome outside the SWC. The Hogs start out with Vanderbilt, visit Oklahoma State then return for Tulsa before their first SWC game, against TCU. Then Arkansas gets a week's respite to prepare for a meeting with Texas. After that, it's typical Southwest Conference all the way.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Any team that returns 17 starters from an 11-1 season and a No. 3 national ranking must be highly regarded the following year, especially if the entire backfield and all the receivers are back. So it is with the Razorbacks. Arkansas will score by the bushel and give up points with the reluctance of a bear going to the dentist. Steve Little gave the Hogs great field position all last year and just how well Holtz fills his shoes will determine how high the Razorbacks go, but No. 1 could be a reality.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-Excellent, Rushing-Excellent.*

Denfense: *Against passing-Excellent, Against Rushing-Superior.*

TEXAS A & M (8-4)

Despite the return of 15 starters from last year 's 8-4 team, coach Emory Bellard has made it plain that no one should take a regular role for granted.

' 'Our first and foremost aim is to find the players who can play with the greatest intensity, ' ' says Bellard. ' 'Then, we 'll get them properly positioned and fundamentally sound. ' '

In all, Bellard has 45 lettermen back (just 12 graduated) from the team that finished third in the Southwest Conference with a 6-2 mark.

On offense, eight regulars are back, the departures being quarterback David Walker, center Mark Dennard and tackle Frank Myers. Despite the intricacies of the position, quarterback may be the most easily replaced since in Mike Mosely, Bellard has a more than capable replacement. Last season, as a freshman, Mosely ran for 248 yards with a 6.4-yard average and hit on nine of his 12 aerials. He displayed great poise and was at his best against top competition, to wit, his performance against USC in the Bluebonnet Bowl.

Last season the Aggies set new school records in both rushing yardage and total offense and there shouldn 't be any depreciable drop off with Mosely calling the shots. The sophomore signal-caller will be surrounded by familiar faces as the entire running back corps returns intact. The Aggie wishbone is led by fullback George Woodard, a mountainous 265-pounder who never lost a yard last year in 245 carries while racking up 1,107 yards and a 4.5 average last year. Big George blasted his way for 13 touchdowns.

The halfbacks are Curtis Dickey and David Brothers. Dickey was the more active last year, gaining 978 yards while posting a 5.5-yard average. Brothers had 330 yards and a 5.6-yard average.

Since both Dennard and Myers were all-league selections last year, the center and tackle spots are critical. Curtis Jennings was a capable backup for Myers last fall and Preston Dickson did well in Dennard 's spot. Neither has the job won, however. Ed Pustejovsky, a starter last year, will vacate a guard position to try his hand at center.

Thus, Doug Holmes is the only starting guard returning. Mark Burger, Mark Giamfortone, Scott Hays, Kyle Golson and Johnny Svatek will vie for the other guard spot.

Cody Risien returns as a starting tackle and will be difficult to dislodge. Zack Guthrie, Tom Gregory, Paul Hagerty, Arlis James and John Osborn will battle Risien and Jennings.

Russell Mikeska returns at tight end but split end Darrell Smith has been working out at defensive back. Doug Teague looms as the foremost split end where he alternated with Smith last year, but Mike Whitwell, who won a schlorship as a walk-on, will challenge.

Last year virtually no one — coaches, players or fans — were really happy with the Aggie defense. Although there are seven players who can be called returning starters, all positions are up for grabs.

For the record, defensive coordinator Melvin Robertson lists these seven as returning starters: LE Jacob Green LT Johnnie Donahue, MLB Frankie Lemons, WLB Floyd Randle, RC Jimmy Hamilton, SS Kenneth Taylor and FS Carl Grulich.

Among the end candidates will be James Zachery, who played tackle last year; Eddie Heath, who was a starter at times last fall; Stacy Breihan and Herbert Booker.

Fighting for the two tackle spots will be Eugene Sanders, Gary Milligan, James Scoggin, Tim Ward, Gerald Galloway, who sat out the year with a broken leg, and Cal Peveto.

Among the linebacker candidates, in addition to Lemons and Randle, are Ken Rollins, Dick Frazee, Tony Meyer, Mark Tullous, Randy Harvey, Mike Little and Doug Carr.

In the secondary, another long list of aspirants is available.

Tony Franklin is one of the nation 's most heralded placekickers and gives Texas A &M an ability to put points on the board from as far away as 60 yards. Franklin made 16 to 28 FGs last year, including five of 50 yards or more. In one game he attempted a 69-yarder but was wide.

David Appleby returns to do the punting, a chore he performed 57 times last year with a 43.3-yard average result.

The Aggies open up on the road against Kansas and Boston College before returning to College Station for a game with Memphis State. The SWC schedule is particularly tough because the Aggies have to play both Texas and Arkansas on the road.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Bellard's offense should be every bit as potent as last year, and maybe better if Mosely plays up to potential. Defense will be the key. The Aggies gave up 83 points in their two conference losses (to Arkansas and Texas) and must shore up that unit if they are to challenge for the SWC crown. Having to play at Little Rock and Austin won't make the title hunt any easier.

OUTLOOK

OFFENSE: *Passing-fair, Rushing-superior*

DEFENSE: *Against passing-very good, Against rushing-very good*

HOUSTON (6-5)

Coach Bill Yeoman and his Cougars found that winning a Southwest Conference Championship is a lot easier than defending it.

"Our 1977 season was pretty indicative of the fact that we were not sufficiently prepared mentally for the role of defending champion" admitted Yeoman. "This preparation must begin in the spring and continue through the summer. We just did not enter the season in the right frame of mind. By the time we were finally ready to play, we had been crippled by injuries. Nothing is accomplished without hard work."

Early season injuries wrecked a potentially strong Cougar team last fall after UH opened the season with an impressive 17-13 win over UCLA. In the next two weeks, though, as many as six starters fell with injuries, including quarterback Danny Davis, and it was an uphill fight the rest of the way.

Davis' return to the Houston Veer-T augurs well for the Cougars' ability to move the ball this season. Davis was injured in the second game of the year (Penn State) and missed the rest of the season after shoulder surgery (not his throwing arm). The year before Davis had led Houston to the SWC crown and the Cotton Bowl Championship as a sophomore. He had the third highest one season total offense mark in UH history. "You judge a quarterback like a coach," says Yeoman, "on how many games he wins. Danny's a winner." Davis was off to a fast start last year, completing 21 of 36 passes (58.3 percent) and rushing for 104 yards before the injury. Completely healthy now, Davis still must beat out Delrick Brown, who took over last year and was impressive hitting 50.7 percent of his aerials.

Danny Davis returns for Cougars.

Baylor's Gary Johnson on loose.

The rushing game, long a Houston strength, will have to come up with a new pair of ball-carriers following the graduation of fullback Dyral Thomas and running back Alois Blackwell. Thomas, who gained 572 yards last year, will be replaced by Randy Love, a 333-yard producer in 1977. John Newhouse, a redshirt, also is in the picture. Blackwell's position is not as easily filled. The big running back accounted for 1,169 yards and a 5.5-yard average last year while scoring 11 touchdowns. Terald Clark, another redshirt, and/or Emmett King will have first crack at it.

The receiving corps also has been dealt a severe blow, losing super tight end Don Bass and flanker Rickey Maddox. Bass had 42 receptions, 580 yards and seven touchdowns to lead the club in all three categories last year. Garrett Jurgajtis will attempt to fill his cleats. Maddox, the team's second leading receiver, will be replaced by Eric Herring who alternated as a starter last year. Willis Adams—15 catches for 261 yards—is back at split end.

Up front, Yeoman must replace two three-year starters, left tackle Kevin Rollwage and right guard Ramon Rosales. Calvin Darnell is penciled in for Rollwage's spot with Jim Wells, the starter at left guard last season, taking over for Rosales. Wells' spot will go to backup Jack Faniel. Melvin Jones will be at right tackle but the star of the unit should be center Chuck Brown, a second-team All-SWC pick last year as a sophomore.

One of the big concerns in '78 will be to improve a defense that gave up almost 24 points per game in '77.

The return of '76 starters Robert Oglesby (noseguard) and David Hodge (linebacker) along with six starters from last year, should help.

Oglesby, a second-team All-SWC pick in 1976, missed all of 1977 with an injury. His return is welcome indeed, since three other defensive line regulars have graduated. Grady Ebensberger is a returnee at left tackle and Harry Wright, who played noseguard in Oglesby's absence, likely will find a starting assignment elsewhere. Hosea Taylor and Fred Snell have the inside track for the right tackle and right end positions.

Hodge, meanwhile, will replace graduated Willis Williams, the team's leading tackler (statistically) last year. It is a role Hodge should be able to fill since he earned second-team All-SWC honors as a sophomore in '76. He sat out last year with personal problems. Joining Hodge will be Steve Bradham, the No. 2 tackler last year.

The secondary returns three starters, but there are some changes. Strong safety Kenzie Foley is back but he'll be replaced by Tommy Ebner, a redshirt last year. Kenny Hatfield, a placekicking specialist, will assume the right corner from graduated Anthony Francis with Elvis Bradley (free safety) and Gerald Cook (left corner) returning to starting roles.

Punter Jay Wyatt (57 punts for a 41.9 average) and placekicker Hatfield (32 of 36 PATs and six of 13 FGs) assure a good kicking game.

Houston plays all eight SWC foes in addition to Memphis State, Utah and Florida State. Five teams that went to bowls (Texas, Arkansas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech and FSU) are on the slate.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Return of Davis, even without last year's top runners and receivers is certain to boost Houston offensive potential. Ditto the defense where Hodge and Oglesby should excel. Houston will be better—noticeably better—but not good enough to threaten for the SWC title.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-very good, Rushing-good*

Defense: *Against passing-good, Against rushing—fair*

BAYLOR (5-6)

There is optimism in Waco, Texas as coach Grant Teaff welcomes back 16 starters from the Baylor team that surprised a lot of people with its tenacity and grit against the nation's toughest schedule last year. Seven of Baylor's 11 foes were ranked in the top ten at one time or another in '77 and five went to bowls. Only an NCAA probation prohibited a sixth—Kentucky—from going, too.

Baylor's offense, which supplied an ample 228 points, nearly is intact, losing only split end Tommy Davidson and guard Jon Kramer. The Bears are primarily a running team, and it's easy to see why. Wingback Greg Hawthorne rushed for 670 yards and a 5.1 yard average; tailback David Seaborn gained 554 with a 5.4 average; and fullback Steve Howell chipped in with 387 and a team-leading 7.2 yards per carry average. All three return.

Running the show will be a couple of youngsters, sophomore Scott Smith and junior Greg Wood. Both saw plenty of action last year at quarterback and should benefit from the experience. Smith was the more active of the duo, Wood slightly more accurate. Smith connected on 46 of 91 aerials (50.5%) while Wood was 24 of 46 (52.2%)

Davidson's loss will be felt (he led the team in receptions) but there are quality hands available. Tight end Ronnie Lee is working on his fourth letter after catching 21 balls last year. Bo Taylor is another who can catch.

Last year at this time, Teaff had only Kramer returning to the offensive front five. Now he is the only one departing. Able bodies who should make their presence felt include, Arland Thompson, David Sledge, Gary Helzer and Brent Jones. Jones is a product of Baylor weight training and measures in at 6-6, 265.

Baylor's defense was dealt a severe blow last year when All-America candidate Gary Don Johnson was injured in the season's opener. But the Bears did a commendable job, limiting the opposition (and what opposition) to 220 points, most of which was hard-earned.

Johnson, a hulking 6-5, 250 pounder who plays nose guard, presumably is healthy again and ready to make mayhem. He'll be joined by tackles Gary Hutchison and James Rowell. Teaff, however, must find replacements for the end terminals.

Linebacking should be a Baylor strength with the return of last year's starters. Jerry Harrison ended a super year by making 17 stops in the TCU game to give him 144 tackles, a team record. Mike Singletary, just a freshman last year, chipped in with 97, and Dennis Jiral added 87.

The secondary will be led by Howard Fields, who had 97 stops last year in addition to his four interceptions. Ron Burns is another good one back there. In fact, Baylor was particularly adept at stopping the pass, permitting only 45% completions all year.

Teaff's punting game may depend on the outcome of two winter operations. Punter Luke Prestridge and deep snapper Buzzy Nelson underwent corrective knee surgery and Baylor needs both of them back healthy. Prestridge had 63 punts last year and averaged an impressive 43.7 yards per boot. His longest was a 79-yard effort against Texas.

The placement game seems in good shape with the return of Bob Bledsoe. Bledsoe was a perfect 24 of 24 with his PATs last year and connected on half of his 22 field goal efforts to lead the team in scoring with 57 points.

Baylor's schedule again must have been devised by Jack the Ripper. The Bears open up with three tough road contests. First is Georgia, the vengeful Kentucky and finally, Ohio

State. If the Bears don't come home for their October 7th meeting with Houston at 0-3, then the disaster will have been averted. For, after Houston, Baylor still must play the likes of the SWC cream—Texas, Arkansas, Texas A&M and Texas Tech. Don't blame Grant Teaff if he doubles his insurance.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Baylor should be better than a year ago, but with such a murderous schedule, will anyone notice? The Bear defense will be immeasurably better with a healthy Johnson, but quarterback still is the big question mark on offense. If Smith or Wood can come through, old man upset may again be Baylor's accomplice. If not, it could be a long year.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-fair, Rushing-very good*
Defense: *Against passing-very good, Against rushing-very good*

TEXAS TECH (7-5)

The schedule is tough, the team inexperienced and the conference rugged. But first-year coach Rex Dockery isn't flinching as he prepares the Texas Tech Red Raiders for the 1978 season. In fact, the 35-year-old Dockery is looking forward to his first season.

"We're going to have a real young team and we will be playing one of the toughest schedules in the country, but we've got some good young players who will give a lot of effort," Dockery said. "We may not be the most talented team, but we'll work as hard as anybody"

The tough schedule which Dockery refers to has the Red Raiders opening at USC and then playing Arizona, Texas and Texas A&M in succession. The latter part of the schedule is just as tough with perennial powers Houston and Arkansas looming as the final two opponents.

Making the task ahead even tougher is the noticeable lack of experience on the Red Raider roster. The '77 team was loaded with seniors so Dockery will have only 33 of 59 lettermen back for the '78 campaign. Only eight starters return from last year's team and two of them were part-timers.

On offense, the picture is particularly gloomy, with only three regulars returning, none in the backfield. Leading the returnees is flanker Brian Nelson who caught 17 passes last year for 223 yards and carried 10 times for 51 more.

But who will get the ball to Nelson now that Rodney Allison is no longer calling signals for Tech? Mark Johnson and Tres Adami appear to be the front-runners but Dockery will not rule out an incoming freshman, either. Johnson and Adami split time last season when Allison was out with a broken leg and both had their moments. Johnson is considered the better runner; Adami the better passer.

The rushing game must also be rebuilt with the graduation of Billy Taylor and most of his mates. This year's edition will be built around the talents of Sam Bailey, Tom Orr and Steve Dawson. Bailey had a 4.1-yards per carry average based on 203 yards while Orr Checked in a 5.2 and Dawson at 6.0 in very limited action. Rapid development by the trio would ease the burden somewhat on whoever wins the quarterback spot.

Up front two starters return, guard Larry Martin and tackle Ken Walter. Several young offensive linemen picked up unexpected experience last season when injuries hit and should step into starting roles now. Center Joe Walstad, tackle Bubba Burns and tight end James Hadnot all return after seeing considerable action last season. Walstad will get help at center from Kim Taliaferro, who was moved from defensive tackle where he was a regular last fall. That group will be backed by what the Tech coaches consider, "a good group of young linemen who just don't have any experience."

Defensively, five regulars are back, two of them part-time players.

The defensive line returns ends Andy Thomas and Olan Tisdale and tackles Kim Taliaferro, Curtis Reed and David Hill. All five saw playing time last year.

The Raiders also must fill two starting linebacker spots and find solid reserves at all three linebacker positions. All-Southwest Conference strongside linebacker Mike Mock and middle linebacker Gary McCright have both completed their eligibility.

The secondary also is an area of concern for Dockery and his staff. Last season began with seniors starting in three of the four secondary positions. Injuries forced several underclassmen into more playing time than anticipated, but inexperience will still be a problem.

Safeties Larry Flowers and Johnny Quinney both saw action last fall as did cornerback Willie Stephens.

Texas Tech heads into 1978 with fewer questions about the kicking game than in 1977, but some major uncertainties still need to be answered.

Placekicker Blade Adams suffered a knee injury against Arkansas in the final regular season game and how well he recovers from surgery is the key to how well the Red Raiders do with field goals, extra points and kickoffs. The big need is for a punter.

"Overall, we have a lot of areas of concern, but the main thing is just getting some experience," Dockery said. "I think we have some good talent, especially in the way of offensive and defensive linemen. We just need some playing time."

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Steve Sloan got out of Lubbock just in time. To be sure, Dockery didn't inherit a warm bed. Texas Tech will be rebuilding and chances for a con-

Rex Dockery guides Texas Tech.

tender, let alone a .500 record are not bright. That very tough schedule won't help any, either.

OUTLOOK

Offensive: *Passing-fair, Rushing-fair*
Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-fair*

SMU (4-7)

SMU has improved in the two years Ron Meyer has rode herd over the Mustangs, and with 16 starters returning, including one of the most explosive passing duos in the country, the trend could continue for at least another year.

Mike Ford, the top freshman in the Southwest Conference, will return at quarterback as the area's fastest draw since Billy the Kid. Ford led the league in passing yardage and total offense his first year by connecting on 153 of 301 aerials for 2,064 yards (a .508 completion percentage) and 11 touchdowns. The 6-3, 215-pound aerialist could even be better this year.

Ford's favorite target is Emanuel Tolbert, the wingback who is the top returning collegiate receiver in the country. Tolbert, himself just a junior, finished second nationally in 1977 with 64 receptions for 996 yards and six TDs. An All-Southwest selection last year, Tolbert, like Ford, is on the verge of even better things this season.

Anthony Smith at wide receiver and Elton Garrett at tight end return to fill starting roles again this year. Smith snared 19 balls for 206 yards while Garrett added 20 for 308 last year.

Of concern to Meyer is the loss of tailback Arthur Whittington, the number three rusher in SMU history. Obviously, the passing attack was greatly enhanced by the defense's respect for the rush last year. Derrick Shelton, who had just 23 carries last year, has the inside track for Whittington's job. Since Whittington carried 205 times last year, Shelton and his mates will have to assume a larger burden in 1978. Fullback Walt Foster will be counted on to help ease Whittington's loss. Foster had a 5.0 average in limited activity last year.

Three of the five horses up front will be back, led by three-year letterman guard Joe Bays. Also returning are Randy Katz and Mike Jusko. Lance Pederson is the favorite for center

while Mike Randle is given the edge at the open tackle spot.

SMU's problems last year were on defense where the Mustangs gave up 319 points. If SMU is to rectify that situation then the returning eight starters and three newcomers will have to have big years.

One defensive player who did have a big year in '77 was strongside linebacker Putt Choate, who averaged 17 tackles per game while leading the Mustangs in that category. The All-SWC choice also returned an interception 100 yards against Tulane and had two fumble recoveries.

The line has three regulars back, including ends Byron Hunt and Roy Douglas and nose guard Charles Hunt. However, the best of the Mustang defensive front four, tackle James Wright, has graduated, along with Jeff Sutton on the other side. David Marshall likely will inherit Wright's spot with Pete Muse pencilled in on the other side.

The return of Choate bolsters the linebacking, but the loss of weakside linebacker Champ Dickerson, will be felt. Dickerson tied Choate for total tackles last year, and had a season's high 32 against Ohio State. Jimmy Smith seems the heir to Dickerson's position.

The entire secondary returns but coach Meyer is expecting more from this unit than it produced last year when the opposition picked SMU apart at a 56 percent rate. The secondary is paced by D.K. Perry, the Ponies' leading thief, who picked off five last year. Perry, the right cornerback, lines up opposite left corner David Hill with Tim Jones at free safety and Sid Greehey at strong safety. All members of this quartet are seniors, and only Jones is without three letters.

Kicker John Dunlop, who connected on four of nine field goals and 24 of 28 extra points, has graduated, leaving the position in a state of flux. Ken Rosenthal should continue to be coach Meyer's best defensive weapon, punting the Mustangs to safety when the need arises. Last year, Rosenthal averaged 44.2 yards per punt.

SMU's schedule is anything but soft. With nine members in the Southwest Conference, if you play them all (you can't play yourself) that leaves room for only three non-conference games. So what you try and do is schedule Cream Puff U. among that trio, right? Wrong. SMU went out and scheduled Florida (in Orlando where even Pittsburgh couldn't win last year), Penn State (at University Park) and Ohio State (in Columbus). If that doesn't sound like 0-3, what does? And after them come Texas, Arkansas, etc. If it's not enough to make you sick, it's certainly enough to make you lose.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The mustangs will have one of the most exciting passing attacks in the nation this year but even Ford and Tolbert won't be able to combat a leaky defense and murderous schedule that is sure to stymie SMU. The Mustangs will score, but not nearly as quickly as the opposition.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-excellent, Rushing-fair.*

Defense: *Against passing-fair, against rushing-poor.*

TCU (2-9)

With the nation's longest losing streak now behind him, F.A. Dry enters his second season as boss of TCU's football fortunes—and he's confident the Horned Frogs will be much improved from the 1977 team that posted a 2-9 record.

Dry will have 16 returning starters back from his youthful team and 49 lettermen overall.

But Dry isn't counting on just his returnees to turn the TCU football program around. The recruitment of 29 prospects, including 13 junior college players has Dry beaming with anticipation.

"We think our junior college players will give us immediate help," says Dry. "We got speed, size and quality from both the juco and high school ranks."

Eight starters return to the offense, the graduation losses completely among the receivers. Split end Mike Renfro, a multi-decorated four-year starter who caught 50 passes for 794 yards and 10 TDs last season, will be the most difficult to replace. Martinez Smith has the inside track for Renfro's spot, but another Renfro, Mark, who missed last fall with a shoulder injury, will contest Smith. Not to be overlooked is Steve Williams, a prime prospect out of junior college with 9.6 speed.

Micheal Milton, who alternated last year, will be the full-time flanker this time with a host of candidates fighting for the tight end spot.

And there Dry's offensive woes end. The rest of the offensive lineup has starting experience from a year ago, although challenges and position changes cannot be ruled out.

Running the show will be Steve Bayuk, the No. 2 man in total offense in the Southwest Conference last year. Bayuk passed for 1,474 yards and ran for another 154 but there's room for improvement in both areas. Bayuk can do better than 45 percent accuracy and should average more than 1.1 yards per carry. Experience will help, and Dry feels confident.

"Quarterback is one of the more solid positions on the football team," he says.

The running back position is much stronger than a year ago, according to Dry. Jimmy Allen, the No. 1 rusher from last season with 445 yards, is back, but he'll be pressed by Raymond Williams, David Caldwell and Robert Hoot. Terry Smith has been moved from fullback to running back to make another challenge. But perhaps the best challenge will come from Craig Richardson, a juco transfer who was an All-America punt returner last year.

Duncan Still split time at running back and fullback last year as a regular and he returns, probably at fullback. Chester Strickland, who started the last game in 1977, will challenge along with Mike Bowers.

All five interior starters from a year ago return, but only center Eddie Grimes, who Dry says "has the ability to be outstanding," is assured of maintaining his starter's role. Mark Krug and Donald Davis are the incumbents at tackle but they're meeting challenges, too.

At guard, Bill Kinder and Frank Hartman are returning starters but not assured of opening up again this year. Juco transfer Drew Montgomery has impressed with his strength (bench presses 430 pounds) and Don Mays, according to Dry, "is coming on strong."

Defense really hurt the Horned Frogs last year and Dry has turned his efforts to rebuilding that unit. Ten of the 13 juco players recruited by Dry were on defense, underlining his concern.

On the line, three starters return. John Wade will be at one end with Bobby Cummings and Daron (they alternated) at the other side. Juco stars Fred Williams and Derek Smith should add depth.

At tackle, James Price and Wesley Roberts are returning regulars who will be challenged by the return of Marshall Harris, a two-year starter who was redshirted last season with an injury.

Sophomore Michael Isaac has the edge to inherit the critical noseguard position.

Linebacking should be a team strength with starters Charlie Abel and Jim Bayuk having to contend with juco standouts Steve Bingham and Kevin Moody.

Mark Labhart, a starter at cornerback will move to safety in one positional change, joining Steve Barnes and/or Chris Judge in another deep area. Perry Colston will hold forth at one cornerback while Kin Deloney, Ray Berry and Al Futrell vie on the other side.

Cameron Young (40.1) returns for the punting chores with transfer Chris Leise now in charge of the placements.

The 1978 TCU schedule is nearly identical to the '77 sked. All eight SWC foes are on the bill as well as Oregon. Murderous USC has been replaced by equally murderous Penn State and Tulane replaces Miami.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The Horned Frogs seemed to have made progress under Dry and with the return of 16 regulars and a bountiful recruiting year appear headed for better tidings. Who knows, TCU might win four games this year.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-fair, Rushing-fair*

Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-poor*

RICE (0-11)

The "youngest squad in America" in 1977 is one year older and, hopes Rice head Owl Ray Alborn, at least one victory better. Rice suffered through a perfectly awful season of 11 defeats last year, many of them so lopsided that the fans started waving white flags at intermission.

Well, 54 lettermen are back from that unit (including four who lettered in '76 but not in '77) and Alborn is looking for improvement. Things certainly can't get worse.

Among the offensive returnees are most of the "skilled" performers. Quarterback Randy Hertel paid his freshman dues last year and is expected to show marked improvement in this, his sophomore season. The 18-year-old signal caller was not reluctant to put it up, firing 356 aerials, of which 156 found Rice recievers. It all figured out to 1,620 yards, a 43.8 completion percentage and nine touchdowns. Rookie mistakes led to 24 of his passes being intercepted.

If he has time to throw and improves as expected, Hertel's receivers should have another banner season. Last year the big man was David Houser, a possible "All" candidate who caught 55 balls for 795 yards and five touchdowns. The return of All-America hopeful Doug Cunningham should help all concerned as another legitimate deep threat, Cunningham was hurt in the season opener last season and granted another year of eligibility by the Southwest Conference. A year earlier he caught 57 passes despite playing five games with a broken finger.

The infantry will be paced by fullback Earl Cooper, the Owls' leading rusher in '77. Cooper was out of school last spring but will rejoin the team. The Owls certainly can use his 598 yards rushing, his 4.4 average and his blocking skills. Cooper also caught 23 passes last year.

Joining Cooper at running back should be Calvin Fance, a sohpomore who picked up 175 yards in a backup role last year.

Dwane Moyer, whose twin brother Dwight plays defense, returns as one starting tackle with Ernie Rogers on the other side. John Joyce and Todd Wernet are back at guards. This unit is a veteran one, Joyce being a junior, the other three all seniors. Darryl Grant and Keith Kveton earned monograms as freshmen last year and will battle for the center spot.

Defensively, coach Rice finally has the experience he wants. The Owls list 12 returning defensive starters six backs rotated in the secondary), thus assuring a familiarity that could—and should—lead to improvement.

Holding forth up front are tackles Dwight Moyer and Tom Adams, ends Larry Ball and Will Rub. Rice needs to improve here, as last season opponents ran right over the Owls. Rice surrendered ground yardage at a 5.2 clip and gave up over 320 rushing yards per game. The pass rush also was lacking, over 50 percent of enemy aerials being completed. The figure might have been higher except the ground route was so accessible.

Dennis Blair and Robert Williamson return to linebacking posts with Carlton Derrett, Mike Downs, Don Parrish, Don Rutledge, Rickey Thomas and Bobby Tincher back in the secondary.

Parrish was the most productive in terms of turnovers, nabbing four passes for interceptions.

Steve Gleaves is back to do the punting after averaging 38.3-yards per effort last season.

Wes Hansen is the regular placekicker.

Rice's schedule offers little help from last year's doldrums. Besides SWC crushers Arkansas, Texas, Texas Tech, Texas A&M et al, the Owls must play Oklahoma, LSU and Iowa State. That will hurt.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: This team will be better than last year's edition but a win might still be hard to find. The Owls couldn't even make it close last year, their best margin of defeat 10 points. Some of those 50, 60 and 70 point shellackings of a year ago probably will be mere 20, 30 or 40 point defeats this year, but they're still defeats.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-good, Rushing-fair*
Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-poor*

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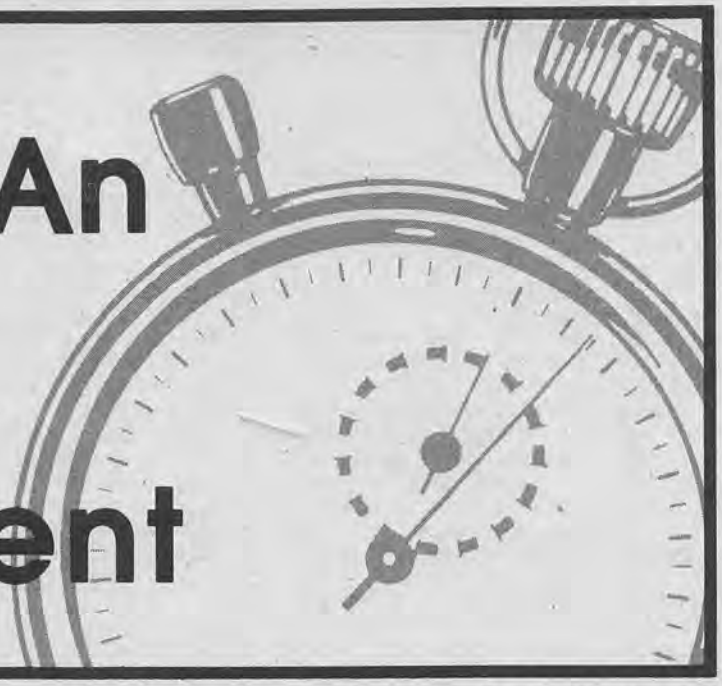
Time For An NCAA Tournament



By DAVE SLICK

Joe Montana hit Ken MacAfee with a 13-yard scoring pass with just seven seconds left to lead Notre Dame to a stunning and dramatic 17-13 come-from-behind victory over Alabama that earned the Fighting Irish the National Championship.

Fiction.

In reality, Notre Dame and Alabama did not meet last year and the National Championship was decided, not on the field, but by a vote of the writers or coaches, depending upon which poll you believe.

This is not to say that Notre Dame was not the best team in the country last year—however, it is not to say the Irish were. It is to say "We don't know." Notre Dame finished 11-1, an early setback to Mississippi spoiling the Irish's perfect season. But Notre Dame was not alone. Alabama, too, was 11-1. The Crimson Tide also lost early, on the road, to highly-ranked Nebraska. Arkansas and Penn State also finished with 11-1 logs while probation saddled Kentucky checked in at 10-1.

And, there is the case of Texas, No. 1 longer than anyone, but a Cotton Bowl loser to Notre Dame. The Longhorns also finished at 11-1. The writers and coaches determined that since Notre Dame had beaten the No. 1 team, the Irish deserved the top ranking. Sort of like beating the heavyweight boxing champ. 'Bama diehards didn't quite see it that way. They pointed out that the Irish had lost to an unranked (Mississippi struggled to a 5-6 mark and coach Ken Cooper was dismissed) team while the Tide at least lost to Nebraska, a team that finished 9-3 including a Liberty Bowl victory over North Carolina. 'Bama also knocked off No. 1 team, Southern Cal., which enjoyed that ranking when the Tide edged the Trojans, 21-20 on the road.

Arkansas supporters point to a dismantling of Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl but lose credence because of a narrow 13-9 loss to Texas. Penn State's only loss was to Kentucky while the Wildcats themselves were upset only by Baylor.

Settle It On The Field

Obviously, the only way to settle a National Championship is on the football field. Every other NCAA sport recognizes this yet football is the only one decided arbitrarily. Had a poll instead of a tournament been used to determine the NCAA basketball champion, Marquette, the eventual winner, would never have gotten a vote. Afterall, the Warriors had seven defeats. The pollsters would have probably selected Michigan (three losses going in), Kentucky (three losses going in) or San Francisco (one defeat entering the tournament). Michigan was eliminated in the Mideast regional, Kentucky fell in the East regional and San Francisco was knocked out in the opening round of the West regional.

The call for an NCAA football tournament is not new, and neither is opposition to it. Opponents usually cite academic complications and coaching hardships, not to mention how lucrative the bowls are.

Says LSU coach Charlie McClendon: "I don't think it (a playoff) can be worked out. I feel a playoff after the bowls would be a real hardship on our players.

"Sure," added McClendon, "the fans would think the playoffs were great. I agree there would be a great interest this year if we had a playoff between (top-ranked) Notre Dame and (second-ranked) Alabama.

"But the fans don't look at it from the coaches viewpoint. There already is more pressure on coaches than ever before. Enough of us are being fired as it is."

Maryland mentor Jerry Claiborne also opposes a playoff. "I don't think a National Championship should be decided in a playoff. I don't feel that a team should lose the championship in a single game after going through an entire season recognized as the best team in the country.

"I think the bowls are great. But as a reward for a good season as they are now, not as an elimination."

McClendon is right in that a playoff after the bowls would be a real hardship. The idea here is to use the bowls as part of the playoff.

And Charlie Mac, remember that the game does indeed belong to the fans, not the coaches.

Claiborne doesn't feel that a team that has been No. 1 all season should lose the championship in a single game but that is exactly what happened anyway. Texas, 11-0, No. 1 since the middle of the season, lost the title with one loss to Notre Dame and, conversely, Notre Dame won it with one game. Why then, not let everyone have a shot at the title? Alabama's only sin, it appears, is in not having beaten Texas—an impossibility since the SEC winner is locked in as host team in the Sugar Bowl while the SWC Champion (Texas) has a similar role in the Cotton Bowl. Obviously, this gives an independent like Notre Dame an advantage. The Irish chose the Cotton bowl just specifically for that reason.

Not all coaches oppose a playoff format. Georgia's Vince Dooley is one who supports the idea.

"I've long been in favor of some form of playoff," said Dooley. "I would suggest that we take the top four after the bowls, maybe the top two. I think it is the one area where we are way behind the pros. I think someday it will become a reality."

Echoing Dooley's sentiments is Ben Martin, the former coach of Air Force who currently is president of the American Federation of Coaches of America.

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Bruins & Huskies Have 'Rosy' Outlook

PAC-10

CONFERENCE COMPARISON

TEAM	PREDICTED FINISH	LETTERMEN		STARTERS RET.		STARTERS LOST	
		Returning	Lost	Offense	Defense	Offense	Defense
UCLA	First	46	17	7*	6	5	5
Washington	Second	45	12	9	9	2	2
Southern California	Third	33	20	5	6	6	5
California	Fourth	44	20	5	8	6	3
Stanford	Fifth	39	15	4	7	7	4
Arizona State	Sixth	26	16	5	6	6	5
Washington State	Seventh	41	19	4	6	7	5
Arizona	Eighth	37	15	6	7	5	4
Oregon	Ninth	36	20	7	7	4	4
Oregon State	Tenth	39	22	7	6	4	5

*Totals do not add up to 11 due to part-time status of some starters.

UCLA (7-4)

UCLA came within a field goal of representing the PAC-Eight in the Rose Bowl last year, but with the return of the main protagonists from that offensive cast, Bruins coach Terry Donahue is hopeful the Blue & Gold can make it to Pasadena this year.

"Having your returning center, quarterback and top two running backs should insure us a good familiarity between these players," says Donadue. "The PAC-10 race will be really close this season. Naturally, you have to go with the champion, Wahsington, until they are defeated. But a lot of teams will be capable—USC, Arizona State, UCLA—any team probably will be able to beat any other team on a given Saturday."

Running back is perhaps the strongest area for the Bruins. Left half James Owens returns after leading the Bruins with 938 yards and a 5.3-yard average in 1977. Owens missed spring practice for his track hurdling duties, but will be ready by the fall. Joining Owens will be Theotis Brown, recovered from a dislocated elbow and already the seventh greatest rusher in school history. Brown had 539 yards last year and a 4.7 average. Freeman McNeil (5.7) is a top reserve.

Leading the quarterback contingent is Rick Bashore, who started 10 games last year and became only the second Bruin sophomore to pass for over 1,000 yards. Bashore hit 49.7 percent of his passes and threw for nine touchdowns. Backing him up will be veteran Steve Bukich, a 14-for-24 provider.

The receiving corps virtually will be a new one. Among the three positions, only Kent Brisbin has starting experience, having started five times last year (Chris Elias, who started twice, may be a candidate for defense). If Elias should make the move, this will leave James Forge and Ronnie DeBose to contend with Brisbin for the tight end job. None have much experience. At split end, Scott Teising and Fred Brockington are the top prospects while Ricky Coffman, a running back in '77, gets a shot at flankerback.

The offensive line loses All-Everything tackle Gus Coppens, but the Bruins still have three senior players, each of who started all 11 games in '77, back for another go round. Center Brent Boyd, one of the PAC-10's top returnee's at his position, anchors the unit. Right guard Jim Main earned the UCLA coaches' award as the team's outstanding offensive lineman while left tackle Max Montoya was an hornorable mention All-PAC-Eight choice. A number of lettermen will fight for the remaining two positions. Bruce Davis and Curt Mohl have the most experience among the tackle condidates while Ron Davis, Ron Wolland and Larry Lee figure to battle for the guard position. Prep All-Americas Luis Sharpe and Dan Dufour will also be looking for playing time.

The UCLA defense returns six starters, three of them "All-Something."

The unit will be paced by two-time All-America inside linebacker Jerry Robinson, a three-year letterman who led the team in tackles last year.

Joining Robinson will be nine-game starter Jeff Muro, the Uclans' third best (statistically) tackler last year.

The outside linebackers posts (UCLA plays the 3-4-4) must completely be rebuilt. Both starters have graduated, as well as the top reserve. Three players who saw action at this position return—Glenn Windom, Ken Walker and Howard Kipnis. JC transfer Larry Hall and sophs Scott Stauch (running back in '77) and Brad Plemmons (ILB in '77) should battle for a starting berth. Six freshman are also in the picture.

Up front, Donahue welcomes back second-team All-America tackle Manu Tuiasosopo at left tackle, but must fill the other two spots. Billy Don Jackson still is the favorite on the right side despite missing spring drills with an ailing knee, although Martin Moss also is vying for the position.

Senior Dan Hopwood is being pressed for the starting nose guard spot by a pair of sophs, Joe Gary and Dave Otey. Four freshman figure here, too. Tuiasosopo, too, may move to NG.

Three players, who started a majority of the '77 games in the secon-

Theotis Brown leads Bruin attack.

dary, return. They are Kenny Easley, Bobby Hosea and Johnny Lynn. Easley, voted the best freshman defensive back in the nation, holds down free safety while Lynn is No. 1 at strong safety. Hosea, who started eight times at right corner, now is on the left side, while Brian Baggott, who started three times, is at RCB. Gone is Levi Armstrong, an All-Coast selection, but Easley, who also was All-Coast, appears headed for even greater accomplishments. Easley led the conference in interceptions (six) and earned honorable mention All-America laurels, to boot.

The kicking game is wide open with Peter Boermeester, who handled the placekicking last fall when the graduated Frank Corral was injured, trying to win the job outright.

UCLA has scheduled every PAC-10 opponent except Arizona State with Tennessee, Kansas and Minnesota on the non-conference slate. The schedule opens with the Uclans visiting defending Rose Bowl champion Washington in an early show of strength and ends with the traditional war against USC in the LA Coliseum. **ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The PAC-10 race, as Donahue indicates, is wide open, and UCLA certainly has a chance to win it all. The offense will move the ball and score but the key will be how well UCLA is defensively. If Tuiasosopo, Robinson and Easley perform up to capacity, the unit could be very good, indeed, and the Bruins should be in it right down to the wire.**

OUTLOOK

Offense: Passing-very good, Rushing-excellent

Defense: Against passing-very good, Against rushing-very good.

WASHINGTON (8-4)

Rose Bowl champions. Roll it around on your tongue a little while. It's odd to be talking about the Washington Huskies as the defending PAC-Eight (now PAC-Ten) champions, but there was nothing odd about the way they defeated USC, California and Stanford to get to Pasadena, and nothing odd about the way they beat a good Michigan team for all the marbles . . . er, Roses, on January 2. Make no mistake, this was and is a good football team.

Coach Don James welcomes back 45 of 57 lettermen, including 18 starters, so Huskie prospects again should be bright this year. Washington operates out of the "I" formation with tailback Joe Steele expected to handle the football 25-30 times a game while running behind an experienced offensive line. Steele rushed for 865 yards a year ago, had a 4.4 yards per carry average, scored 13 touchdowns, caught 25 passes and returned five kickoffs for a 37.6 average per return. His 4.5 speed was evidenced on an 83-yard touchdown run against Stanford.

Joining Steele in the backfield will be fullback Ron Gipson, a 575-yard provider who had a 4.8 yards per carry average last season. In relief are Kyle Stevens (5.0) and Toussaint Tyler (4.5).

Warren Moon's departure leaves a gaping hole at quarterback but James is not hurting for candidates. There's Duane Akina, the better runner; Tom Flick, the better passer; and Tom Porras, a JC import who did both well in the two-year ranks and may be the better alternative.

Whoever throws the ball will have the top seven receivers back from 1977 including sprinter-hurdler Robert "Spider" Gaines who averaged 22.0 yards per catch on 30 receptions in 1977. Tight end Scott Greenwood emerged as a clutch receiver in '77, snaring 22 for an average of 18.2 yards per reception. Also on hand is flanker Gary Briggs, who added 21 catches last year.

The offensive front loses second team All-America center Blair Bush, but otherwise is well set. Guard holdovers are Phil Foreman and Steve Bauer with Jeff Toews and Roger Westlund at the tackles. Tom Turnure or Terry Sherwood will assume Bush's center spot.

James' offense is multi-decorated, from Toews' All-PAC-8 selection to Steele's 2nd team selection and Gaines' honorable mention choice.

Washington averaged 4.2 yards per rush and 220.7 yards per game in addition to 148.8 average passing yards based on over 56 percent completions last year in one of the nation's most balanced attacks. Unless a quarterback can be developed immediately, however, the Huskies will likely rely even more on their ground game this year.

The Huskies will operate out of a basic 3-4-4 defensive alignment in 1978 and James has nine of last year's starters back to accomplish his goals. The unit will be anchored by tackle Doug Martin (2nd Team All-Coast), inside linebacker Michael Jackson (3rd Team Associated Press All-America) and cornerback Nesby Glasgow (All-Coast and honorable mention Associated Press All-America).

Both defensive losses were on the line where 1st Team All-Coast tackle Dave Browning and nose guard Cliff Bethea no longer prowl. Chris Linnin and Rusty Olsen will vie for Browning's tackle spot with either David Smith or Fletcher Jenkins moving into nose guard.

The secondary should be particularly strong with all four starters — Lance Theoudele, Kyle Heinrich, Greg Grimes and Glasgow — returning plus another safety who started in '76 and part of '77 until injured.

The Huskies also return their top 10 linebackers (how's that for depth?) including all four starters. Jackson is, of course, the key player — twice national defensive player of the week in '77 and three-time defensive conference player of the week. Joining him are John Kerley, Antowaine Richardson and Bruce Harrell.

Washington's defense last year was excellent, giving up only 174 points while allowing 3.2 yards per rush and 48 percent pass completions.

The Huskies return their No. 1 punter in sophomore Aaron Williams, who averaged 36.1 yards on 57 boots as a frosh in '77, but need to find a new placekicker as four-year veteran Steve Robbins has graduated after setting nearly every placekicking record in the UW book. Mike Lansford, a JC transfer, may be the answer.

Washington's schedule features eight PAC-10 games, highlighted by the season's opener against UCLA and the traditional windup with Washington State. In between are games with new PAC-10 rivals Arizona and Arizona State plus an intriguing matchup in Seattle with last season's Sugar Bowl champion Alabama.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The Huskies have excellent experience returning both offensively and defensively plus the confidence inherent in winning a conference title and the Rose Bowl. Steele and Gaines are "big play" types who can break any game open, but each will need competence at quarterback to show his best. The defense should be even better than last year, especially if Washington can practice ball control on offense. If quality players step forward, the Huskies again could be one of the nation's best.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-good, Rushing-excellent.*

Defense: *Against passing-excellent, Against rushing-excellent.*

USC (8-4)

Young and unpredictable are the words being used to describe this year's edition of the USC Trojans and coach John Robinson isn't about to disagree: "We have potential,", he admits, "but we have a long road ahead if we're going to be an outstanding team. We're talented, but extremely young."

The Trojans have 11 starters returning—five on offense, six on defense—and a total of 33 letermen.

"Sophomores and freshmen will have a major impact on our team," agrees Robinson.

Those freshen, however, are the talk of the recruiting world. USC was ranked No. 1 in the nation in recruiting with a haul that included 10 prep All-Americas, three of them quarterbacks.

And the big question mark is at quarterback—but whomever runs the attack will hand off to as explosive a set of tailbacks as there are in America.

Charles White is on his way to becoming the No. 1 rusher in USC's storied history. He's darted for 2,336 yards and averaged 5.3 a carry in his two years, scoring 20 touchdowns. And when White rested, Dwight Ford literally dashed defenses off their feet. Ford ran for 763 yards, averaged 7.8 a carry and broke off five runs of longer than 50 yards. There's also Rod Connors, who chipped in with 217 yards, averaging 6.4 every time he touched the ball.

But who will play quarterback?

The candidates to replace record-setting Rob Hertel are lefthanded Paul McDonale, who completed 63 percnet of his passes in brief appearances (17 of 27) last season; Rob Preston and Walt Ransom.

The fullback will be Lynn Cain,who ran for 375 yards, averaged 5.4 and scored seven TDs as a tailback-fullback in 1977. "For us to have a successful offense," says Robinson, "Cain must have an outstanding year."

The receiving corps loses all-time Trojan pass-catcher Randy Simmrin but could still be strong. The wide men should be Calvin Sweeney and Kevin Williams. Sweeny had 33 grabs last year for 564 yards (17.1 average) and six touchdowns. Williams is a flyer (9.4 speed) who averaged 23.6 yards per each of his 10 catches last year including TD bombs of 44, 40 and 27 yards.

Tight end starter will come from among James Hunter, Hoby Brenner and Vic Rahkshani, the latter by way of San Jose State where he caught 24 passes for 307 yards.

The interior line has good front-line talent but lacks overall depth. On the weakside are guard Pat Howell and tackle Anthony Munoz, both returning starters and "All" candidates.

The strongest guard is Brad Budde, and like Howell, he too is an All-Coast and All-PAC Eight recipient.

Early favorite for the strongside tackle job is Keith Van Horne with Otis Page, trying to come back from two knee operations, also in the running.

Chris Foote and Brad Green should see time at center.

The Trojan defense has lost some of its brightest stars with the graduation of All-America safety Dennis Thurman, All Coast tackle Walt Underwood, All-PAC Eight linebacker Clay Matthews, All-PAC Eight cornerback Ricky Odom, and linebacker Ed Gutierrez, the team leader in tackles for losses.

Up front, two starters return in nose guard Rich Dimler and tackle Myron Lapka. Ty Sperling, Ray Peters, David Corsinotti, and Brad Streelman may also see playing time.

Two linebackers return, one inside, one outside. Inside man is Dennis Johnson, who led the Trojans in tackles as a sophomore with 105 and broke up seven passes. He'll call defensive signals this year. Outside is Garry Cobb, who was second to Johnson on the team in tackles. There's a crowd vying for the two open spots but says Robinson, "We hope we get some help from our freshman."

The secondary will be paced by lively competition. Larry Braziel and Carter Hartwig will alternate at one corner while Herb Ward and Tim Lavender will do likewise on the other side.

Willie Crawford is the incumbent at rover with Dennis Smioth, Kenney Moore and Dan Morovick vying at safety.

Placement specialist Frank Jordan, who tied USC's single-season record with 14 field goals, and punter Marty King (39.9) return.

The 1978 Trojan schedule is one of the most difficult skeds in recent memory. Six bowl teams are in the lineup including three of the major bowl winners—national champion Notre Dame (Cotton Bowl), No. 2 Alabama (Sugar) and No. 9 Washington (Rose). The other bowl teams include Stanford (Sun.), Arizona State (Fiesta) and Texas Tech (Tangerine), and there's also a game with resurgent Michigan State.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: USC has traditionally responded to graduation losses with the infusion of younger players who, true to the Trojan formula, seem to perform with excellence. A rich bumper crop of talent should aid Robinson in what other coaches might call a rebuilding year. But, at USC, there are no rebuilding years. The PAC-Ten title is not beyond USC's reach but the pieces must fit in awfully well if that dream is to become a reality.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-good, Rushing-excellent*

Defense: *Against passing-very good, Against rushing-very good.*

CALIFORNIA (7-4)

Despite being offensive coordinator at California for the past six years, rookie head coach Roger Theder is thinking defense now that he has the top job.

"We are going to be a good, sound football team," says Theder. "We will be very young on one side of the ball (offense) and very experienced on the other side. Our line (defensive) is as big as any group you will find and equally as quick."

California (thanks partially to Theder) has been known as an offensive powerhouse in the past, but it was the Bears' defense that reaped praise last year. With eight starters returning to that unit, the defense again figures to lead the way.

Theder believes his line ranks with the best fronts in the nation. "It is certainly our strongest area in terms of talent and depth," he says.

Led by All-America end Ralph DeLoach and freshman phenom Pat Graham at tackle, this unit has tremendous quality. Add to them 1977 redshirt Daryle Skaugstad, who the coaches rated as the team's top performer in last year's spring drills along with JC All-America Brian Vincent, '77 parttime starters Rich Miller and Bob Rozier along with soph Dupre Marshall and it is quite evident that the Bears are deep and talented up front.

In fact, the Bears are so deep, that two-year starter Craig Watkins has been moved to offensive tackle.

The linebacking corps also appears well established with two starters and 10 of 12 experienced performers returning. Greg Bracelin so successfully made the transition from deep back to outside linebacker last year that he now is being considered for the middle spot. If such a move is made, the Bears will have to decide what to do with punishing hitter David Shaw, the regular there last year. A quartet of players are in hot pursuit of Burl Toler's open spot with Ron Hill, an alternating starter last year, having the inside edge. Pat Turner, John Harris and redshirt Stan Holloway also are in the running. JC transfer Ulysses Madison is thought to be a tremendous prospect who might have a talent edge on the group.

The toughest job facing Cal is replacing safeties Ken McAllister and Anthony Green.

The Bears secondary ranked as the top pass defense in the PAC-Eight last season while yielding a mere 127 yards per game through the air.

Starting cornerbacks Anthony Washington and Daryl Swanson both return for their junior campaigns after outstanding years in 1977.

The leading candidates for the safety spots look to be Rich Terry and Duane Wilkes, a pair of JC transfers with impressive credentials.

The concerns Theder does have about his 1978 squad fortunately for him come in an area in which he is very familiar — offense.

"I think we have some holes we must try to fill but I feel fortunate to know the personnel because we will need to make some vital decisions," says Theder.

Those holes include filling four interior line positions, replacing two blue-chip receivers, and choosing a quarterback.

On the line, the main returnee is Duke Leffler, a second team All-PAC-Eight performer who plays guard. He'll be joined by soph Rancho Cordova at guard while another soph, Brian Bailey, will team with Watkins at tackle. All-California JC transfer Rick Anderson is the favorite at center but he's being pushed by Don Hudson and Jesse Covarrubias.

The backfield is potentially strong with the return of every performer who carried the football for Cal last year. The most impressive rusher was Paul Jones who was the PAC's third leading runner despite missing two games last year. Jones had 805 yards on the ground and a 4.3-yard average.

Oliver Hillmon is the incumbent at tailback, but he'll face many challenges.

Charles Young and Gary Graumann alternated at quarterback last year, both with good results. Young started the first nine games and completed 135 of his 249 passing attempts for a 54 percent completion rate and 1,875 yards and 12 TDs. Graumann, meanwhile, hit on 63 of 118 for 53 percent. Most impressive was that he was intercepted but twice.

Gordy Ceresino is Stanford's ace.

Eric Anderson, Rich Campbell and Art West also will get a chance to play.

The receiving corps has been hurt by the twin graduations of Jesse Thompson and George Freitas. Thompson had 51 receptions last year while Freitas had 50. Trying to fill in will be Floyd Eddings and Dave Mogni out wide and Ron Moffett at tight end.

Jim Breech has graduated, leaving the placement duties in doubt, but punter Dan Melville returns to do the punting after averaging 42.3-yards per effort last year.

California has scheduled seven PAC-Ten foes, with the league curtain-riser in Berkeley against Oregon. Non-conference foes include Nebraska, Georgia Tech, Pacific and West Virginia.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The Golden Bears are yet another team with title aspirations in the jumbled and highly balanced PAC-Ten this year. The defense appears solid and if Theder is effective at rebuilding the offensive line and settling on a quarterback, then Cal will have a dark-horse chance for the title. The Bears probably won't make it, but they'll have an awful lot to say about who does.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-good, Rushing-fair*
Defense: *Against passing-excellent, Against rushing-very good*

STANFORD (9-3)

Bill Walsh didn't waste any time making his coaching presence felt in the PAC-Eight last year. The former Bengals', Raiders and Chargers' assistant directed the Cardinals to a 9-3 mark, including a Sun Bowl victory over LSU. His offensive strategy had the Cards finishing third in the NCAA in passing and seventh in total offense last year. For his efforts, Walsh was tabbed Pacific-Eight Conference Coach of the Year.

With 39 of 54 lettermen returning one might say that Walsh is dealing from a stacked deck again, but 11 of those 15 departees were starters, seven of them members of the potent Card offense.

Reconstruction must start at quarterback where All-America Guy Benjamin once worked. Benjamin did it all last year, firing for 2,521 yards, including 19 touchdowns and a terrific completion percentage of .630. The consensus All-Everything signal-caller likely will be replaced by senior Steve Dils, who in nine games proved he could do the job. Dils hit on 27 of 42 aerials (.643) with one touchdown and no interceptions.

Unfortunately for Dils, James Lofton and Bill Kellar, Stanford's brilliant wide receivers, have graduated. The duo combined for 99 catches (53 for Lofton and 46 for Kellar), 15 touchdowns and 1,584 aerial yards.

The only returning receiver will be tight end Pat Bowe, who, a 6-7 and 230 pounds, is an easy enough target to spot.

Leading replacements for Lofton and Kellar are Ken Margerum and Vince Mulroy. Margerum caught only three balls last year, but his 21-3-yard average is testimony to his speed. Mulroy had six catches and an 11.6 yard average.

When Dils does look for help, he'll probably be looking toward Darrin Nelson, who in his freshman year set the Stanford single game and single season rushing records with 211 yards vs. San Jose State and 1,069 on the season. Nelson was an All-Coast selection and was one of the first two freshmen in the history of NCAA football to rush for over 1,000 yards and catch 50 passes in a single season. In all, Nelson accounted for 1,672 total yards with a 5.8 average on the ground and 10.5 yards per each of his 50 catches.

Workman like John Finley has graduated leaving the fullback spot to capable backup Phil Francis. Francis rushed for a 4.2-yard average in 88 thrusts last year and scored four touchdowns. He'll be supported by soph Todd Wasik. Nelson's backups are Gordon Banks (5.0) and Billy Anderson (4.8).

The offensive line has lost three starters, including blue-ribbon All-America tackle Gordon King. King's left tackle spot likely will be inherited by sophomore Brian Holloway, who is the same height (6-6) as King but some 20 pounds (250) lighter.

Left guard is the property of Jim Stephens, a returning starter, but center Dan McCann must be replaced, probably by Fred Burch.

Mark Hill, the regular at right guard, has departed, leaving Paul Hibler and John Macaulay the likely replacements.

Big (6-5, 260) Gene Engle lends starting experience to the right tackle position.

Defensively there is much more experience with seven starters returning. The unit is paced by middle linebacker Gordy Ceresino, the most valuable lineman in the Sun Bowl and an All-West Coast and All-PAC-Eight first team selection last year. Ceresino, who Walsh claims "reminds me of Nick Buoniconti," established a school record for tackles last year and led the team in sacks. He'll be flanked by Tom Hall, a regular as a freshman last year who was fourth in tackles, and Bo Boxold, another who played as a freshman last year, although in a reserve role.

The line loses left tackle Geoff Kieburtz but Charles Bedford was able to win a letter there last year and should be a capable replacement. Back, however, are ends Chuck Evans and Dean Wilson and tackle Steve Howe.

The secondary will be headed by Robby Chapman who came to Stanford as one of the most heralded running back recruits and wound up making a name for himself at safety instead. Just a sophomore, Chapman

is projected for "All" honors. Complementing Chapman will be corners Savann Thompson and John Pigott with Joe St. Geme, Larry Harris and Kent Stalwick vying for the strong safety vacancy created by Ralph Phillips' graduation.

Kicker Ken Nabor (12-19 FGs and 24-26 PATs) returns but he may also have to punt now that graduation has claimed Brad Fox (41.2).

The Stanford schedule starts off with a bang as Oklahoma comes to town on opening week. San Jose State, Illinois and Tulane are the other non-conference games.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Offensive losses are heavy but one is reluctant to predict that Walsh won't once again come up with a formidable aerial attack to go with Nelson's obvious talents. If Dils can consistently perform the way he did in spurts last year, then the Cardinal offense will again be forceful. If not, then the defense, which is a good one, will have to pick up the slack. Stanford was outscored last year but, miraculously won nine of 12 games. Winning the close ones will be important in determining just how successful Stanford is.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-good, Rushing-good*
Defense: *Against passing-good, Against rushing-good*

ARIZONA STATE (9-3)

After guiding the Sun Devils to a Western Athletic Conference crown and another appearance in the Fiesta Bowl, Frank Kush has set his sights on even loftier accomplishments. With Arizona State's acceptance into the Pacific Coast Conference (along with Arizona), this year, the prize is the Rose Bowl, or, as they're fond of saying on TV, "the grand daddy of them all."

While the Sun Devils have picked up the cheer "Run for the Roses" for '78, such unbridled optimism may be a bit shortsighted in the light of severe graduation losses. The offense has lost six regulars, including the exteriors of the line and quarterback. All-American John Jefferson, the latest in a long line of great Arizona State wide receivers, surely will be missed. Jefferson had 53 grabs good for 912 yards last year. Sohpomore John Mistler is the heir to Jefferson's spot.

Tight end Bruce Hardy also is gone, but because Hardy split most of his time with Marshall Edwards (who returns), this loss is not considered critical.

What may be critical is the loss of both tackles and one guard. Rick Torbert and George Fadok are gone from the right side and Doug Dedrick from the left. Braun has been an ASU concern the past couple of years on the offensive line but the brains are there. WAC-All Academic selections Chris Mott (center) and Norris Williams (center-guard) return along with guard Greg Blakes. However, Kush is interested more in heavy duty bodies instead of brains and will look towards a pair of beefy (250 pounds) sophs, Kani Kauhi and Rod Essley, to fill the bill. Steve Chambers, a hulking 6-6, 255-pound redshirt, might fit into Kush's plans, too.

All-WAC selection Dennis Sproul will be the lone departee from the Sun Devil backfield, but as evidenced by his honors selection, he was a good one. Kush hopes Mark Malone may be able to assume command and pick up where Sproul left off. Malone has excellent size (6-4, 212) and has displayed an equal flair for running and passing.

Aiding the education of Malone will be regular wingback Chris DeFrance and running backs Mike Harris and Arthur Lane. DeFrance has 9.5 speed and is a deep threat. Ron Washington also saw action at wingback last year, enough, in fact, for him to catch 16 aerials for 299 yards. His 9.6 speed carried him into the end zone twice.

Fullback Mike Harris leads the ground game. The 205 pounder barrelled for 738 yards in 163 carries last year, a 4.5 yard average, to lead the club. Arthur Lane, the diminutive (5-8, 175) yet productive halfback, added 648 yards with a 3.9 yard average. George Perry often shared duties with Lane, seeing enough action to amass 486 yards rushing.

Specialty teams killed the Sun Devils in their 1977 Fiesta Bowl loss to Penn State so emphasis was placed on this area this spring. DeFrance and Washington will try to utilize their speed on kickoff and punt returns while Steve Hicks takes care of the placements and Kevin Rutledge minds the punting. Hicks hit 46 of 49 PATs, but just 7 of 20 FGs last year. Rutledge had a 40.8 yard punting average.

End Al Harris provides spark for the defense and is Arizona State's top honors candidate for national recognition. Robert Kohrs plays the other end with competence, but lacks Harris' flair. Kush must fill a pair of gaping holes in the center of his defensive front where both tackles are gone. Two transfers, Tom Allen and Joe Peters, will get long looks.

Defensive signal-caller Tim Petersen is gone but back are middle linebacker Gary Padjen and outside linebacker Dave Barthel. Converted fullback Jeff McIntyre may fill in at linebacker if he doesn't catch on with the defensive line.

Safety and return specialist John Harris has graduated but four defensive backfield letterman return to help ease the loss. Starters are back in Raye Williams at corner and strong safety Darrell Gill. Attempting to crack the starting lineup will be soph Mike Lee and senior Kim Anderson.

This year's schedule features seven PAC-10 encounters (including the traditional get-together with Arizona). Also on the agenda is BYU and UTEP from the WAC and Northwestern of the Big Ten. The season opens in

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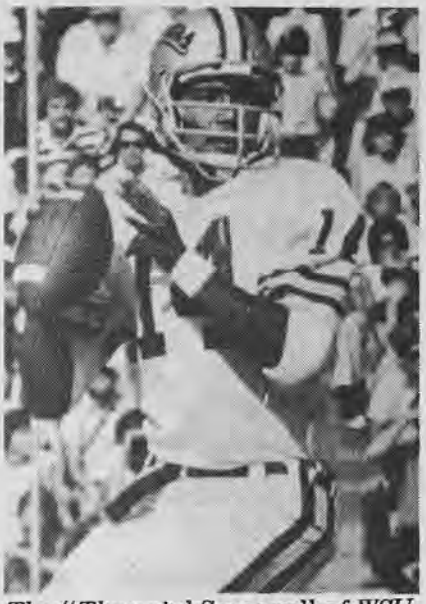

The "Throwin' Samoan" of WSU.

Tempe against the University of Pacific.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Kush's entrance into the PAC-10 figures to be anything but a bowl of cherries (or roses, for that matter). Lack of size may hurt the Sun Devils since the conference annually produces some of the choicest physical specimens in the nation. Those holes on both lines plus the loss of Sproul won't put Kush in any kind of mood to Fiesta.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-fair, Rushing-good*
Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-fair*

WASHINGTON ST. (6-5)

Only four offensive starters return from last season 's surprising 6-5 team but since super-star quarterback Jack Thompson is among the quartet, first-year coach Jim Walden can count on plenty of fireworks.

Nicknamed the ' 'Throwin ' Samoan ' ' because of his heritage, Thompson 's feats are legion in the PAC-Eight (now PAC-Ten). Last year Thompson became the first junior in conference history to throw for over 5,000 yards. The 6-3, 215-pound signal-caller can eclipse several PAC-10 and NCAA passing marks if he has another outstanding year in 1978. Last year Thompson set or equalled six conference marks as he connected on 192 of 329 passes (.584) for 2,372 yards and 13 touchdowns.

Joining Thompson in the backfield will be Mike Washington, who rushed for 338 yards (3.9) while also leading the PAC-Eight in kickoff returns with a 25.2 average.

Fullback Dan Doornink has graduated leaving the spot to Tali Ena, like Thompson, a player of Samoan decent. Ena picked up 316 yards and had an average of 3.9 yards per rush.

Thompson will have some new receivers to throw to this year, but as Walden notes, ' 'When you have a passer like Thompson, great receivers just happen to come your way. ' ' Maybe so, but the loss of a Mike Levenseller cannot be slighted. The split end standout caught 43 passes for 736 yards (17.1) and scored twice. Flanker Brian Kelly was just as deadly, grabbing 44 balls for 675 yards (15.3) and eight touchdowns. Add to this the loss of Doornink (35 catches) and you have quite a talent gap.

Bevan Maxey, who is working on his fourth letter, will assume Kelly 's spot after catching 14 aerials last year. Levenseller 's backup, Bob Bratkowski, also has graduated, leaving the split end position with a big question mark.

Gus Hobus is the favorite to inherit graduated Eason Ramson 's tight end job.

Up front, tough Mark Chandless returns at center for his senior season and guard Tom Larsen also is back. They keyed a line last year that gave WSU one of its finest offensive seasons in many years, including upset wins at Nebraska and Michigan State.

Tackle Dave Lemke has graduated, with Mike Linker his probable replacement. On the right side, guard Larry Finan will be replaced by Steve Jackson but Barry Zanck 's tackle spot still is up for grabs.

Defensively, ends Tom Thompson and Scott Pelluer return, as do tackles Terry Anderson and Spud Harris, plus All-Coast nose guard George Yarno. Yarno was the mainstay in a much improved Cougar Defense last year and since all but Pelluer, a sophomore, have been two-year starters, experience will not be a problem on the line.

Both linebackers from '77 have graduated, leaving last year 's reserves, Don Nevels and Raleigh Fletcher as the most experienced.

Graduation has played havoc with the secondary as well, free safety Bob Gregor the lone returnee. Randall Simmons and Mike Snow are likely to assume starter 's roles.

WSU also returns one of its finest placekickers in Paul Watson. Drafted in the third round of the Canadian Football League allotment this year, Watson has decided to forgo a northern venture to complete his studies. Last year he led the Cougars in scoring, compiling 59 points on 10-for-21 field goal accuracy and 29-30 PATs.

A major loss will be that of punter Gavin Hedrick, who had a spectacular 44.7-yard average for 53 boots.

Three key players who missed 1977 will be back. They include Mel Sanders, a starting defensive end as a freshman, and offensive tackle Allan Kennedy, who was a starter last year before being hurt. John Dodds is another returnee. He plays in the secondary, and like Sanders and Kennedy, could easily win a starting berth.

Walden feels the schedule, which opens with Nevada-Las Vegas, followed by Idaho, Arizona State and Army, is ideal for WSU.

' 'We have some holes to fill, so the schedule is ideal for bringing along some new starters. ' ' After the Army trip, the Cougars have a week off before returning to league action at UCLA.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The Cougars will play an exciting brand of football with Thompson putting it up some 30-45 times a game. Twin problems exist at receiver where Thompson will be breaking in a new group, and behind the defensive line where only one of six regulars returns. The Cougars will go as far as Thompson can pass them — probably into the middle of the PAC(k).

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-superior, Rushing-fair*
Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-very good*

ARIZONA (5-7)

They're fond of saying in Tucson that "Mason is a builder," but the Wildcat head man should be up to his neck in cement this year. Tony Mason did indeed turn the football program around at Cincinnati (4-7 in '73 to 9-2 in '76) and did indeed notch a 5-7 mark last year with a cupboard that was practically bare, but this year's task may be too great for even Frank Lloyd Wright.

For one thing, the Wildcats enter the PAC-Ten this year (along with Arizona State), and the coastal conference isn't likely to be nearly as hospitable as the Western Athletic Conference has been in the past. Teams like USC, UCLA, California, Stanford and Washington have this thing about newcomers. Making matters worse is the fact that Mason loses his No. 1 passer, rusher and receiver. Anybody got a derek?

To meet these challenges, Mason has signed 26 new players (including eight from the junior colleges and five transfers, four of them from Cincinnati). They will mix with the 37 (out of 52) lettermen returning, including seven on defense, six on offense and a punter.

Says Mason: "The major strength of our team for 1978 is that we would have been together for a year and my system would be handled better by the returning lettermen. We, as a staff, also have a better knowledge of our personnel under game conditions. The offensive line and linebacker position is the strongest from the returning starter position."

The offensive interior loses center Kirk Drummond and nothing else. Back are guards Neil Orr and John Schramm along with tackles Ron Catlin and Bill Jensen. Certain to make his presence felt, however, is Bill Segal, who was rated the top offensive lineman going into last

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season. He was injured in the season's opener and missed the year. Healthy now, Segal will press for a starting tackle spot.

Another strong point is tight end where Ron Beyer returns for his senior year. The 6-3, 220-pound senior caught 20 balls last year for 339 yards (17.0 average) despite missing three games.

The graduation of Marc Lunsford thrusts the quarterback job upon junior Jim Krohn, who saw some starting time last year. Krohn saw action in 10 games, completing 27 of 73 aerials with six interceptions and two TDs.

Tim Hayes, the Wildcats' second leading receiver last season, should make Krohn's job somewhat easier. Hayes had 24 grabs for 363 yards, a 15.1 average per reception.

However, the running back positions must be filled. At tailback, Hubert Oilver, who won a letter with 519 yards rushing and a 5.4 yard average, is a likely starter. There are also two newcomers, transfers Johnny Ziegler and Larry Heater, whom Mason terms "the franchise," who could see considerable action.

Fullback Dean Schock is another who must be replaced, probably by Ziegler and/or Heater.

Mason counts his linebacking corps as the defense's strength, mentioning starters Corky Ingraham and Jack Housley. Ingraham was second in total tackles last season.

A major problem on the defensive line will be in replacing middle guard Jon Abbott, the team's leading tackler (317) and sack (10) practitioner. Abbott's job may go to sophomore letterman Darrell Solomon.

Backup Henry Koa has the inside track for the vacated left tackle spot while starters man the other three line positions. Jeff Whitton is the regular at right tackle with John Crawford and Chris Smith at the terminals.

The defensive backfield returns two starters, right cornerback Gary Harris and safety D.J. Wallace. Wallace had three pass interceptions last year, one less than Ingraham. Tracy Converse is the heir apparent at Wildcat back (strong safety) but left corner is a real problem with no lettermen available.

Recruiting should play a big role on defense, particularly the line, with the addition of Cleveland Crosby and John Stemmer. Crosby is by way of Purdue, a tackle who made 16 stops against USC and was defensive player of the game against Notre Dame.

Freshman sensation Bill Zivic will be the placekicker. Zivic holds the national record for longest field goal by a high school player (57 yards) and, according to Masion, "can do more for a football team than any man in the country."

Ryan Engle (41.3) returns to do the punting.

Arizona's rushing attack netted an average of nearly 204 yards per game last year but passing lagged behind with 144 and a completion rate of just 40 percent. Better balance could result in a few more wins.

Arizona's schedule has been revamped with a PAC-Ten flavor, seven such opponents (but not USC) on tap. There's also a matchup with Michigan and Iowa from the Big Ten, Texas Tech of the SWC and the Big Eight's Kansas State.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Mason will be rebuilding the skill positions at a most inopportune time — as Arizona enters the tougher PAC-Ten — and will be relying on younger players and transfers for the most part. The Wildcats, should all pieces fall together, could be better, but with the change in conference, such improvement may not be reflected in terms of victories.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-poor, Rushing-fair.*
Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-good.*

OREGON (2-9)

Thanks to a highly effective recruiting program and familiarity with his systems, Oregon coach Rich Brooks is confident the Ducks are ready to move on to step two of his rebuilding plan: consolidation.

This time around, Brooks will have a squad well-adjusted to his system. It will also be deeper than a year ago, when lack of durability was reflected in the fact that the Ducks held their own in the first and third quarters of each game, but were outscored, 276-91, in the second and fourth periods.

In addition to a lack of the proven depth required for a solid PAC-10 campaign, Brooks can point out these other areas of uncertainty:

Quarterback, where three-year starter Jack Henderson has graduated.

The secondary, where only Kenny Bryant, second-team All-Coast safety, is back.

Kicking game, where placekicker/punter, Roy Geiger, the team's leading scorer, has graduated.

Tight end, where starter Bill Vincent has graduated.

Brooks' focus this spring has been on quarterback Mike Kennedy, a highly-regarded thrower who redshirted last year after having transfered to Oregon. Also in the QB picture are Tim Durando and Dan Daly, both of whom saw limited action last year.

Some of the biggest strides in recruiting appear to have been made in the secondary, where newcomers of outstanding potential will be joining Bryant, the only returnee. They include two of Oregon's junior college additions, Rock Richmond and Jerome Covington. Also in the secondary will be a sophomore, Gary Beck, who asked for the assignment, even though his 131 yards rushing in the closing victory over Oregon State was the top Duck effort of last season.

Brooks has two newcomers to replace Geiger: freshman placekicker Pat English, and sophomore punter Mike Babb, a transfer from Oregon State.

Four of last year's top five rushers are back with a goal of balancing the rushing ratio that last year gave opponents a two-to-one margin (3,071 to 1,532). With Beck moving to defense, the number drops to three returnees: fullbacks Vince Williams and Jeff Wood and tailback Ed Radcliff. Williams gained 318 yards and averaged 4.5 yards per carry; Wood had 190 yards and a 5.0 average while Radcliff added 188 yards and a 4.5 norm. Also back will be Jim Johnson, who missed last season with an ankle injury, after having led the team in rushing the year before.

Brooks also believes the Ducks will have some new running backs "of quality" in four freshmen, led by highly-touted Reggie Young. The others who could make a dent are Dwight Robertson, Tim Tyler, and Charles Bisharat.

An outstanding receiver who returns is Ken Page, the 165-pound whisp who caught 40 passes for 591 yards last year. A newcomer with credentials is freshman Rourke Lowe, a state champion hurdler with good hands.

Brooks believes the offensive line will be one of Oregon's strengths. It will be anchored by four returning starters: guard bill Hoffman, center Steve Kleffner and tackles Pete Laughlin and Pat McDougall. Another returnee who saw heavy duty is guard Steve Greatwood.

Heart of the defense figures to be the "busy B's." Along with Bryant, linebackers Bruce Beekley, Willie Blasher and Tim Beyer accounted for one-third of the team's tackles last year.

The defense will have a different look this year, changing from the 5-2 to the 4-3. Key personnel among the "down" linemen in the new alignment will be Vince Goldsmith, one of the top freshmen in the league last year, Terry Dion, Neil Elshire and Scott Setterlund.

What progress, if any, Oregon has made will be tested immediately. The Ducks open at Colorado before returning home to Eugene to host USC.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Brooks' optimism and rebuilding program aside, Oregon still is up against it this year and it should be another tough season for Duck followers. Oregon scored but 164 points last year while surrendering 367. Slight improvement will make a team that was very, very bad just very bad. The Ducks may be building, but they're still on the first floor.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-fair, Rushing-fair*
Defense: *Against passing-poor, Against rushing-poor*

OREGON STATE (2-9)

Fifteen starters return to coach Craig Fertig from last year's 2-9 club but something must be done about the Beaver's porous defense if

Oregon State is to climb out of the PAC-Ten cellar.

The Beavers gave up 303 points last year, and were equally damaged in the air and on the ground. Oregon State foes amassed 2,006 yards on the ground and 2,050 in the air and it's liable to get worse unless Fertig can find replacements for both tackles, a linebacker and a deep back. "We lost our starting defensive tackles in Joel Malone and Greg Marshall and their backup, Troy Gusick," admits Fertig. "We have to find out who our tackles will be. In the secondary we must find a corner to replace Kerry Justin."

Fertig's search for defensive tackles probably will start with Craig Rousell and Bob Priest, each of whom earned a letter last year. At end should be Jerry Wilkinson, a starter in ,76 who was injured in the Beavers' second game last year, and regular Tom Schillinger. Wilkinson is 6-9 and 275, certainly big enough to intimidate most quarterbacks.

Kent Peyton is a three-year starter at middle linebacker while Kent Howe holds forth on the strongside. Leading weakside linebacker prospect is Reggie Williams, who lettered last year as a freshman.

The secondary features Lenny Holmes, working on his fourth letter, and safeties Rob Emmons and Tom Stevens. Dave Horton will likely fill Justin's shoes.

The Beaver offense will be built around James Fields, who will be making the move from tailback to fullback this year. Says Fertig: "Jimmy is a strong runner and has a very quick start and one of our best offensive shows was against Arizona State last year when we used him in the fullback spot."

Fields ran for 740 yards last year, a 3.9 yard average with five TDs.

Taking over at tailback will be Willie Johnson. Johnson only averaged 2.9 yards per carry and better is predicted for him this season. Fertig also is counting on Steve Flowers and a pair of freshmen, Mike Smith and Tim Sim.

Quarterbacking the show will be John Norman. Norman injured his knee last year, and the ailment limited his ability to execute the Oregon State option that is so crucial to the team's offensive success. As a result, Norman completed 90 of 200 aerials for 929 yards and six touchdowns. Norman also added 101 yards on the ground.

Both the ground and air attack of the Beavers could use some life. Oregon State averaged less than three yards per carry rushing the ball and hit on 46 percent of its passes. A top-notch offensive line might alleviate some of the problems, but as Fertig points out: "We have a lot of work to do as graduation took most of our players from us. The offensive line is the hardest position to play in football as far as I am concerned. You have to keep your hands to yourself and you must react on the move. It is not only assignment football but reaction football. I think it will be wide open at the center position, wide open at the weak guard spot and certainly wide open at strong guard without Kevin Donaghue (missed spring drills due to foot injury). The tackle positions look like a fight between Craig Spiegelberg, Rich Humphreys and Doug Johnson."

Despite these obvious shortcomings, Fertig feels the kicking game is his No. 1 priority. "I truthfully thought our kicking game cost us maybe four or five ball games last year." Kieron Walford, who was 18-for-18 with PATs, and 11 of 18 with field goals, is the probable placement specialist. Wendell Smith (36.6) has graduated leaving the punting game in a questionable state.

Oregon State's three non-conference games are with Brigham Young (opening day), Tennessee, and Minnesota. Only the BYU game is at home.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSIOn: To have any chance for improvement, the Beavers must mount some consistent form of attack to ease the burden a misfiring offense places on a defense. Norman's performance could be key, for if he can strike up the semblance of a passing attack, Fields may be able to do more damage on the ground. If not, it'll be another long year in Corvallis.

OUTLOOK

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Defense: *Against passing-good, Against rushing-fair.*

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Florida

Continued from Page 132

"I think most of use would like to have a definitive way to pick a National Champion and that would appear to be a playoff," said Martin. "It certainly would give college football a publicity boost. Afterall, the bowls have been a great showcase for college football."

And, the bowls are quite lucrative. Teams derive hundreds of thousands of dollars (not to mention national TV exposure and untold publicity) from the bowls. Any playoff, therefore, would have to incorporate the bowls, and that is precisely what we propose.

Do no touch the bowl structure. Allow the Big 10 and PAC 8 (soon to be PAC 10) winners to meet in the Rose Bowl. However, let that not be the final step but merely the opening round of the playoffs. In fact, use the bowls and the traditional rivalries to open the playoffs in a 16 team format.

Using last season's bowl matchups (with one exception), here's how it might work:

There would be 16 teams in the tournament. The teams would be the PAC 8 winner and runnerup, the BIG 8 winner and runnerup, the BIG 10 winner and runner up, the SEC winner and runnerup, the SWC winner and runnerup, the ACC winner and runnerup, the WAC champion and the three top rated independents.

Based on last year's winners and rankings, the following teams would have been in the tournament: Washington, USC, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Michigan, Ohio State, Alabama, LSU, Texas, Arkansas, North Carolina, Clemson, Arizona State, Notre Dame, Penn State and Pittsburgh.

All but one of the original bowl matchups could be retained. Seedings could be based on combined rankings. The Cotton Bowl, with No. 1 Texas and No. 4 Notre Dame would have seeded first. The Orange Bowl, with No. 2 Oklahoma and No. 5 Arkansas would have been seeded second and the Sugar Bowl with No. 3 Alabama and No. 9 Ohio State would have been third. The seeding is important for future games.

After the opening round, the eight winning teams would advance to round two. Finding sites would be simple. There are large stadiums in all parts of the country who could vie for the games (although this would all have to be determined beforehand). The four survivors would advance with a champion eventually determined. The NCAA could determine the sites much in the same manner that they are decided for the basketball championships and locations could be changed from year-to-year.

Opponents point out that this would lengthen the season, and while it is true that the two teams that do meet in the championship game will have played three more games than they are accustomed to, the problem could be solved by starting the collegiate schedule one week earlier, and reducing to 10 (from 11) the number of games played.

Teams that do not qualify for the tournament like third place finishers in various loops and other than the top three independents, still have such bowls as the Peach, Sun, Tangerine and Hall of Fame in which to compete.

And at last, the NCAA, and the general public, would have a collegiate football champion decided on the gridiron, not in the newspaper.

Bucks vs Wolves What Else Is New?

BIG 10

CONFERENCE COMPARISON

TEAM	PREDICTED FINISH	LETTERMEN		STARTERS RET.		STARTERS LOST	
		Returning	Lost	Offense	Defense	Offense	Defense
Ohio State	First	41	17	7	6	4	5
Michigan	Second	35	20	6	5	5	6
Michigan State	Third	44	22	7	7	4	4
Minnesota	Fourth	32	27	6	4	5	7
Indiana	Fifth	36	17	6	7	5	4
Purdue	Sixth	38	23	8*	5	4*	6
Iowa	Seventh	23	19	7	8	4	3
Wisconsin	Eighth	32	21	6	9	5	2
Illinois	Ninth	31	12	5	9	6	2
Northwestern	Tenth	43	30	4	5	7	6

*Totals do not add up to 11 due to part-time status of some starters.

OHIO STATE (9-3)

It was a typical year in Columbus. Ohio State rolled over most Big 10 opponents, lost another "game of the Decade," this time to Oklahoma, and failed to beat Michigan. Woody Hayes kicked a cameraman and the Buckeyes were humiliated by Alabama in the Sugar Bowl.

Will somebody please change the script?

Maybe somebody will. Woody Hayes, for all his scowling, has 13 starters back, and while that's not overwhelming, it's still two more than Bo has returning at Michigan. And, and it's a big "and," *The* game is in Columbus this year.

Seven starters are back on offense, including the whole right side of the line and the Bucks' top passer, rusher and receiver. Things could be worse, Woody, just ask Bo.

Quarterback Rod Gerald is still the man that makes the Buckeyes function. The versatile signal-caller threw for 1,016 yards last year (58.7 percent) by connecting on 67 of 114 aerials. Knowing Hayes' disdain for the pass, Gerald was thoughtful enough to also rush for 446 yards and a dependable 3.5 average.

The return of tailback Ron Springs should make Gerald's job easier. Springs was one busy Buckeye last year, rushing 200 times for 1,166 yards—a 5.8-yard average—in addition to catching 16 passes to lead the team in that category, too.

Fullback Jeff Logan has said "Goodbye Columbus," but judging by Joel Payton's penchant for the endzone, the loss may hardly be felt. Logan did amass 606 yards and a 5.6 yard average, but when the Bucks needed a score they went to Payton last year. Thirteen times he scored, to lead the team with 80 points. His 4.1-yard average was testimony more to his use on the goal line than to a lack of breakaway capabilities.

Tim Harrell won't return at flanker, and although Ohio State doesn't throw often, his departure could hurt. Harrell was a big play specialist last year, averaging 24.8 yards (no kidding) per each of his 14 catches. Tyrone Hicks is pencilled in as his replacement.

Both tight ends return. Bill Jaco had 10 grabs and a 10.9 average while Jim Moore was less active (five catches), but more productive (19.2). Of course, both block like Mack trucks.

The right side of the line is secure with tackle Joe Robinson and guard Ken Fritz returning, along with center Tim Vogler.

Things on the other side are not so stable. An almost impossible task faces left tackle Doug Mackie as he attempts to fill in for All-America Chris Ward. Ernie Andria takes over for another starter, albeit less decorated than Ward, guard Mark Lang.

The Ohio State offense did most of its damage on the ground last year, rolling for 3,694 yards (three times more than the passing game produced) and a 4.8-yard average. This year's edition figures to be along the same lines.

On defense, Ohio State must replace five regulars, including All-America Aaron Brown, Dave Adkins and Ray Griffin.

Brown's middle guard spot is a potential problem area. The depth chart lists no available lettermen and a position change could be in the works. Brown led all down linemen in tackles and was third overall on the team.

Mark Sullivan will inherit one tackle position with last year's incumbent, Byron Cato, at the other spot. Both starting ends return in Paul Ross and Kelton Dansler. Dansler had the most tackles for a loss, 10, last year.

Much heralded Tom Cousineau has All-America credentials at one linebacker slot but Dave Adkins looms as a tough man to replace at the other. Adkins led the team in tackles last year, a role Cousineau (No. 2 in '77) is certain to inherit this season. Tony Megaro tentatively is pencilled in for Adkins position.

Halfbacks Mike Guess and Len Mills head up the secondary but a pair of safeties must be found. Ray Griffin is particularly hard to replace since he also moonlighted as a kick return specialist. Guess, by the way, led the team in thefts with six.

The kicking game must be improved over a year ago when Tom Orosz averaged only 38.7-yards per punt and a long field goal specialist was not available. Those same problems exist this year, too.

Ohio State will be tested early and late with not too much in between. Penn State visits Columbus to open the season and Michigan comes back to close it. Joe Paterno's Nittany Lions are always tough and no one needs to be reminded about the Michigan game. In between are Baylor and SMU along with Big Ten so-so's Minnesota, Purdue, Iowa, Northwestern, Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana. Michigan State, which looks good this year, is not on the slate.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The Buckeyes have only two tough games this year and both are at home. The favorable schedule, coupled with a fine returning nucleus of veterans—especially on offense—could result in the Buckeyes dethroning Michigan from atop the Big 10. It'll be close, but isn't it always?

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-good, Rushing-excellent*

Defense: *Against passing-good, Against rushing-excellent*

MICHIGAN (10-2)

There's evidence that the Wolverines may finally descend from Mount Victory and come back to the rest of the Big 10, at least as far as Ohio State. Michigan lost a conference game last year (16-0) to Minnesota and suffered through another bowl game embarrassment, this time to upstart Washington. The Wolves did manage to beat Ohio State, 14-6 in Ann Arbor and thus claim the Big 10 crown, but only 11 starters are back from that effort and coach Bo Schembechler has some significant holes to fill.

Offensively, the major problem is how to replace All-Americas Mark Donahue (guard) Walt Downing (center). The multi-decorated duo helped forge the way for a Wolverine ground game that notched 5.2-yards per effort last year. Offsetting the loss of Donahue and Downing (to some extent, at least), is the return of yet another All-America, tackle Bill Dufek. The 255-pound road block broke a bone in his leg and missed the entire season last year. Dufek, if he's fully recovered, could be one of the best offensive linemen in the nation. Schembechler will need him, since only Jon Giesler, another tackle, is back from last year's interior five. The remaining three inside spots will be filled by lettermen. George Lilja or Steve Nauta, the latter injured last year, will take over at the pivot with Greg Bartnick, a two-time monogram winner, on one side and John Arbeznik at the other. "We'll work hard at developing the offensive line," promised Schembechler.

Now the good news.

The entire backfield returns. Rick Leach, who started since his freshman campaign, will again direct the attack. Leach tossed for 1,348 yards on 51.7 percent accuracy by hitting on 90 of 174 passes in Michigan's no-frills attack. He was intercepted nine times but had 15 TD lobs. Leach also gained 363 yards per game total offense.

Three-time lettermen Russell Davis (fullback) and Harlan Huckleby again return to tote the pigskin. Davis led the club last year, gaining 1,092 yards with a 4.9-yards per carry average. Huckleby gained 743 yards and had a 4.6 mark. Also available are Roosevelt Smith (300 yards, 5.0), Stanley Edwards (4.7) and Lawrence Reid (7.1) in a deep and talented running corps.

Wingback Ralph Clayton, the Wolves' top receiver, heads up the pass-catching contingent. Clayton had 24 grabs last season for 477 yards, and a great 19.9-yards per catch average.

Gene Johnson, a triple monogram winner and starter assures that the tight end position will be well-manned. Johnson had 13 catches last year, third best on the club behind Clayton and running back Davis. Backing him up is another three-time letter winner, Mark Schmerge.

Rodney Feaster, a quick sophomore, looks like he'll inherit the wide receiver slot.

The Michigan defense, which limited 12 opponents to just 124 points, will be tested by having to fill six spots this year. Gone are starters from both outside linebacker posts, a middle guard, wolf, strong halfback and free safety.

Key to the returnees is inside linebacker Ron Simpkins, whose 174 tackles set a Michigan record last year. He's just a junior. Joining him is another regular, Jerry Meter, the No. 2 man in total tackles last year.

Tom Seabron, working on his fourth letter, will attempt to take over for All-America outside linebacker John Anderson and Mark DeSantis has the inside track for steady Dom Tedesco's old spot.

Up front, it'll be either Tom Melita or Mike Trgovac at middle guard. But both tackles, Dale Keitz and Curtis Greer return to starting berths. Greer led the team in tackles for a loss with 11.

Derek Howard and Dwight Hicks will be sorely missed from the secondary. In fact, Schembechler's only returning starter is weakside halfback Mike Jolly.

Bob Patek, who missed all of '77 with an injury, may be ready to reclaim the wolf spot. He'll have to contend with Gene Bell.

Mark Braman and Michael Harden are the favorites for strongside halfback and free safety, respectively.

You know that easy Michigan schedule that has Ohio State as the Wolves' only serious opponent? It's been scrapped. This year's slate has a most interesting confrontation planned for the second week of the season. That's when Michigan travels to South Bend for a matchup with National Champion Notre Dame. Forget it, the game has been sold out since days before it was even finalized. Also on the bill is tricky Duke and Arizona, both in Ann Arbor. The Ohio State game, which annually decides the Big 10 champion and Rose Bowl representative, is in Columbus this year.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Every year Bo Schembechler loses All-America linemen and every year he produces new ones. It won't be any different this year and the Wolves, with an experienced backfield, once again will roll up the points offensively. Problems are more acute on defense and if the Wolves do come a cropper, it may be because they're unable to stop someone at a critical time. Of course, lofty goals like a Big 10 title, bowl berth and National Championship will boil down to how the Wolves do against the Irish and Buckeyes. Michigan will be an unfamiliar underdog in both contests.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-good, Rushing-superior*

Defense: *Against passing-good, Against rushing-very good*

MICHIGAN ST. (7-3-1)

Coach Darryl Rogers' second Spartan team last year produced an overall record of 7-3-1, but more importantly, went 6-1-1 in the Big Ten to finish third, just one-half game behind co-champions Michigan and Ohio State at 7-1.

This surprising turnabout from the 1976 club which finished 4-6-1, won Big Ten "Coach of the Year" honors for Rogers.

Bolstered by success, Rogers admits, "I think, I hope we have a chance to win the Big Ten, but, you know, we could have a better team this year and not improve on last year's record."

Personnel losses have not been light. Gone from the '77 team will be 22 lettermen, headed by defensive tackle Larry Bethea, the first lineman to be named the Big Ten's most valuable player since Dick Butkus of Illinois in 1963. Other departures include kickoff specialist Tom Birney, placekicker Hans Nielsen, who set MSU's all-time career scoring record; fullback Jim Earley, linebackers Craig Fedore, Paul Rudzinski and Mike Dean, middle guard Kim Rowekamp, center Al Pitts, offensive tackle John Malinosky and wide receiver Edgar Wilson.

Not counting specialists, Michigan State returns 14 of 22 starters from last year's team, so there is reason for optimism.

On offense, the Spartans look to quarterback Eddie Smith, already holder of virtually all MSU passing records. Smith passed for 1,731 yards

and 10 touchdowns last year while leading the team in total offensive production.

Smith will be looking for fleet Kirk Gibson, the flanker who averaged a spectacular 24.1 yards per reception last year, including an 85-yarder, and tight end Mark Brammer, whose 27 catches topped the club.

Returning to run the ball will be tailback Leroy McGee, the Spartan's most productive rusher. McGee notched 720 yards, scored six TDs and had a 4.4 yards-per-carry average. Replacing Earley at fullback could be Alonzo Middleton, who saw enough action to average a noteworthy 5.9 yards for each of his 39 carries.

Tackle Jim Hinesly is the best of the interior five, although guard Mike Densmore also is a good one. Al Pitts, who made several "All" teams, will be difficult to replace.

On defense, kingpins figure to be tackles Melvin Land and Angelo Fields, linebacker Don Bass and defensive backs Tom Graves, Mark Anderson and Jerome Stanton. Presence of three 1977 regulars in the defensive backfield plus the anticipated return of brilliant defender Mike Marshall from a broken leg suffered in last spring's drills, makes this a strong area. The MSU secondary picked off 15 passes last year and limited foes to .459 completions. The Spartan defense also was adept at stopping the run, as opponents could muster only a 3.3 rushing norm. However, the loss of Bethea and three talented linebackers (Michigan State uses the 3-4-4 defense) could hurt.

As to punting, freshman Ray Stachowicz made All-Big Ten last fall with his consistent booting for a 40.2-yard average.

Recognizing weaknesses, Rogers feels he's recruited well in these areas. "We're pleased with our recruiting," he said. "We went predominantly for offensive and defensive linemen and linebackers. We think we have gotten some very fine ones."

Rogers anticipates no drastic changes in system or theory.

"What we want to do more than anything else is to find more ways to get the ball to Gibson," said Rogers. "He has got to be the biggest, fastest, best outside receiver in the country. But in general we just want to try to do better than we're already doing."

Michigan State's schedule is an ambitious one, especially early. The Spartans open at Purdue then entertain Syracuse before really being thrown to the wolves. Then they travel to Los Angeles for a meeting with USC, return home for National Champion Notre Dame, and then it's on to Ann Arbor for Michigan. It has to be one of the toughest three-game stretches in the nation. If the Spartans survive the first half, they could be very tough since Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa all are at East Lansing. Road games with Illinois and Northwestern wrap up the schedule. Conspicuous by its absence is Ohio State.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The Spartans promise to jam the airwaves with Smith-to-Gibson passes and should have one of the most exciting offenses in the league. If Rogers can fill those holes up front, Michigan State will be very difficult to keep off the scoreboard. The major problem seems to be on defense where two linemen and three linebackers must be replaced. If Rogers is able to solve this riddle, the Spartans could have a "Rosy" future.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-excellent, Rushing-very good*

Defense: *Against passing-excellent, against rushing-good*

MINNESOTA (7-5)

After notching back-to-back 6-5 records in 1975 and '76, the University of Minnesota battled its way to a 7-4 mark last fall and in the process blanked Michigan and earned its first post season game invitation since 1962.

Now coach Cal Stoll is about to enter his seventh at the U of M with a solid nucleus of bowl-wise veterans returning and good reaosn to reflect an optimistic appearance in Gold Country.

"We lost some outstanding players through graduation," admits Stoll, "but once again we think we have more quality and experienced players returning than in the past. We have a couple of major holes to fill, but hopefully we have the people to get the job done."

Of the 32 lettermen listed in the roster, half of them are from the offensive unit. That delegation boasts size, experience and quickness and could be one of the best Gopher attacks in years.

Last fall the quarterback spot remained unsettled as Minnesota used three different starters at that position. Two of them, Wendell Avery and Mark Carlson, will be back.

Behind the signal-caller will be depth and experience. Two lettermen running backs are listed on the roster. Roy Artis and Marion Barber, a pair of fleet-footed sophs, return, the latter a starter last fall who finished with 582 yards rushing and a 4.5 average. Another top-flight candidate will be Glen Lewis, a transfer who was shelved in '77.

The fullback spot looks solid with three returning lettermen. Heading the list is Kent Kitzmann who led the Gophers in rushing the past two seasons and set an NCAA single-game rushing record last fall with 57 carries at Illinois.

Also on hand will be Jeff Thompson, who started several games during the early part of '77, and Garry White, who looms as one of Minnesota's burners.

Ed Smith directs Gopher attack.

The flanker position also has an impressive look with starter Steve Breault topping the list of returnees.

In the receiving department, Jeff Anhorn returns as the Gophers' top pass grabber at split end. Glenn Bourquin heads the tight end corps which includes hopefuls Jim Fahnhorst and Randy Sonnenfeld.

The interior line will need the most repairing. Marty Stein is Minnesota's only returning letterman tackle, while two monogram winning guards, Darrell Schwen and Pat Paquette will help start the rebuilding job.

Although Minnesota lost a number of stalwarts from last year's fine defensive unit, 16 lettermen reported to camp.

Stan Sytsma tops the list of veteran ends while Steve Cunningham, who lettered in 1976 but sat out '77 with an injury, also returns. Other candidates are Tom Murphy, Tom Sapp, Kurt Mangum, Jeff Schuh, Brent Harms, Ric Lager and Mark Jelacic.

Jim Ronan and Alan Blanshan give Minnesota a sturdy look at tackle with Mark Owens, Mike Nielson, Dave Gardner and McKinley Nash also bidding for duty.

A trio of lettermen spearhead the nose guard delegation. They are Doug Friberg, Jeff Carr and Ed Kuduk.

Top linebackers appear to be Ed Burns and Don Meyer.

In the secondary, such lettermen as Ken Foxworth, Paul Rogind, Craig Kirtland, Keith Brown, Brian Snyder and Keith Edwards lead the way.

Paul Rogind will be back for his third season as Minnesota's kickoff man and he also will handle the PAT and field goal chores. Last year Rogind set a Gopher record with 18 field goals. Rogind is credited with winning four games last

year—Western Michigan, Washington, Northwestern and Wisconsin.

Minnesota's punting chores are up for grabs between Terry Simmons, Steve Tobin and Larry Marko.

The Gophers play every Big 10 opponent except Purdue and also have UCLA, Oregon State and Toledo on the bill.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Stoll has a good blend of youth and experience with which to work and should turn out a team similar to last year's unit. Minnesota's ability or inability to win the close will determine how well the Gophers do. Michigan, Ohio State, UCLA and Michigan State look like toughies, but Minnesota could win the other seven.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-fair, Rushing-good*
Defense: *Against passing-very good, Against rushing-good*

INDIANA (5-5-1)

Indiana head coach Lee Corso is a realist. "We're getting there and we'll be better in 1978 than we were in '77," he says. "There's no magic to it. We just have more good football players than we've had, and there's a fairly direct correlation between my coaching ability and the material I have. We have fewer questionable places, but we don't have the depth yet that you need to win in this league."

Thirty-six lettermen, including 13 starters, six on offense and seven on defense, return to aid the Hoosier cause. In addition, three 1976 starters are back.

Directing Corso's Pro-Set and 'I' type offensive formations will be quarterback Scott Arnett, a three-year starter. Arnett was a double threat in '77, passing for 796 yards and rushing for 774. He connected on 48.3 percent of his aerials and averaged 4.9 yards per rushing thrust.

Behind Arnett is a deep corps of running backs. Tailback Mike Harkrader was the first Big Ten back to get 1,000 yards as a freshman, fourth in NCAA history, but was hurt last pre-season and sat out the season. Now 100 percent, Harkrader is ready to resume his Hoosier heroics.

Also available at tailback is Darrick Burnett, Indiana's second best rusher last year. Burnett rolled for 774 yards and had a 4.9-yard average. Jerry Bowers, Al Darring and Lonnie Johnson provide excellent depth. In fact, tailback is so strong that Harkrader may open up as a receiver. Ric Enis, the Big Ten's No. 2 rusher, may not even be missed.

Fullback is well off with the return of Tony D'Orazio, a 491 yard, 4.4 provider. D'Orazio also blocks well and can catch the football.

A few offensive starters from 1977 will be difficult to replace. One is split end Keith Calvin, an All-Big Ten selection and the Hoosier's all-time receiving leader. Calvin caught 41 balls last year. Compounding the problem is the departure of flanker Markus Hardy.

Calvin's replacement will be Mark Fishel, a junior with a pair of letters. Hardy's spot may go to Modock White or Ron Pennick, the latter a starter in one game last year before being injured. Nate Lundy, a soph with fine speed, is another possibility.

Up front, All-Big tackle Charley Peal, credited with opening most of last year's rushing avenues, will be hard to replace. Mark Johnson will have first shot.

Gary Autry, the guard on the other side, has graduated but Sam McGee appears capable of filling in.

Strength of the interior five should be center Mark Heidel, a three-year starter. Also back are Doug Peacock, the right tackle and left guard Jeff Phipps. Dave Harangody is the incumbent at tight end.

The Indiana defense returns six regulars, three of them key performers. The unit will be paced by linebacker Joe Norman, Indiana's top defensive player last year and MVP.

Joining Norman will be Doug Sybert, another regular from '77.

The line returns three starters, tackle Al Leake and ends George Doehla and Paul Yarian. The vacant right tackle spot could be filled by Brent Tisdale, a letterman and former starter here or John Dailey, the No. 2 man here last season.

Middle guard could go to Steve Weissert, a letterman who was hurt much of last year, or Mel Patton, a reserve last season.

The secondary boasts a pair of blue-chippers in cornerback Dave Abrams and free safety Dale Keneipp. Abrams was first team Big Ten last year after setting an Indiana University record for interceptions (seven) while ranking fourth nationally.

Keneipp's forte is experience. This will be his third straight year with a starting assignment.

A couple of three-year starters must be replaced. John Swinehart is a possible at one corner, as is Nick Barnes.

The strong safety spot lost Nos. 1 and 2 and Chuck Alexander could move up, or there might be a position change.

Placekicking should be in good shape with the return of David Freund and Kevin Kellogg. Freund is accurate but lacks distance while Kellogg can boom them from way out. Punting is a potential problem area unless jc transfer Larry Lovett can fill the bill.

Indiana's schedule is tough. The non-conference opponents offer little breathing room. The Hoosiers open up at Baton Rouge with LSU before returning home to entertain Washington and Nebraska, a pair of bowl victors.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Progress has been slow and painful at Indiana but at least it has been steady. This will be a good Hoosier team that will suffer from a very strong schedule that offers little help in terms of won-lost improvement. Indiana also has tough road games at Minnesota, Purdue and Michigan State plus a home standing affair with Ohio State. It all could be too much.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-good, Rushing-very good.*
Defense: *Against passing-good, Against rushing-fair.*

PURDUE (5-6)

No longer a rookie head coach in the Big Ten, Purdue's 42-year-old Jim Young embarks on his second tour convinced he has the Boilermakers back on the road to football prominence despite the Gold & Black's 5-6 record last fall in Young's first season at the helm.

The former Arizona mentor will rely on 38 returning lettermen, among them 12 starters, to help achieve his aims. First on the Young agenda is a better balanced attack; one that does not rely so heavily on the pass.

So this spring, Purdue's running game (only 1,426 team rushing yards opposed to 2,252 by the opposition in '77) and offensive turnovers (30 interceptions, 12 lost fumbles) were high on Young's list of priorities.

"The two areas we will benefit most by improving, are our running game and cutting down on turnovers," Young says. "Not only would that help the offense, but, conversely, it would help the defense as well.

"There are several ways to improve the running game. How much we improve it remains to be seen. First of all, we have more experience coming back offensively — more starters. That in itself should mean we will be improved."

Of course, for every yard Purdue didn't gain last fall on the ground, it made up for it with two or three via the air, largely on the golden right arm of freshman quarterback Mark Herrmann. The soph signal-caller tossed for 2,453 yards and 18 touchdowns as a 18-year-old. He led the Big Ten in both passing and total offense and was second and fourth nationally. He established numerous other Purdue aerial marks, even more glittering when one remembers that the likes of Len Dawson, Bob Griese and Mike Phipps also threw for the Boilermakers.

Herrmann will have a great set of ends to throw to in wide receiver Ray Smith and tight end Dave Young. Smith had 38 receptions last year for 565 yards (14.9 avg.) and three TDs while Young made 28 grabs for 373 yards (13.3) and five scores. Among the missing, however, will be Reggie Arnold, who led the team with 44 receptions for 840 yards (19.1) and eight touchdowns.

The Infantry loses top man John Skibinski and No. 3 provider Mike Brown and Robert Williams (362

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yards and a 3.7 average) will have to carry a heavier burden.

Some personnel changes in Purdue's offensive line also bode improvement this season. Last year's starting right tackle and guard — John LeFeber and Steve McKenzie — have flip-flopped positions for one simple reason — They've flip-flopped weights. LeFeber, 260 last year, now is 235. McKenzie, however, has swelled to 255.

"McKenzie does a good job of blocking; he is a very strong one-on-one blocker," says Young, "and at the tackle position he always has a lineman over him. LeFeber is much quicker at the lower weight and I think it is a good move."

Other personnel switches find last year's co-starting tight end Tim Eubanks at offensive tackle, where he has the opportunity to replace graduating Mike Barberich. Steve Schlundt, the early season starter at center, has been moved to defensive middle guard and Wayne Smith, a reserve tailback last fall, now is at cornerback.

Defensively, five of last season's regulars must be replaced — defensive end Lee Larkins, nose guard Roger Ruwe, linebacker Fred Arrington, and deep backs Jerome King and Pat Harris.

But besides the switch of Schlundt, the return of reliable nose guard/tackle Ken Loushin, a starter last fall until sidelined by ear problems, shores up the defensive front tremendously.

"We lost people defensively at linebacker, defensive end, and in the secondary, so those are the areas we would like to improve. Once again," explains Young, "experience enters into it. The defensive line already has shown improvement, and that's a matter of experience more than anything else. In order to win, you have to figure on a strong defense."

Young's top defensive standouts should be cat-quick end Keena Turner and linebacker Kevin Motts. Turner led the team in tackles for losses last year with 10 while Motts, like Turner just a junior, was second on the team in tackles.

The secondary is of particular concern to Young since only free safety Willie Harris returns from last year's regular quartet. Rock Supan (strong safety) and Rick Moss (cornerback) will be asked to make a greater contribution.

Scott Sovereen, who connected on 11 of 19 field goals and 26 of 27 extra points, returns for the placements with Dave Eagin (35.8) hoping to improve on his punting.

Purdue plays every Big Ten opponent except Minnesota this year, opening with tough Michigan State and closing with Indiana (both at home). Ohio State visits the Boilermakers but the Gold & Black must play Michigan and state rival Notre Dame on the road.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Herrmann's familiarity with the league and Young's system plus his own natural maturity should result in a better year for both the youthful signal-caller and the Boilermakers. Despite Young's claims to the contrary, Herrmann will be putting it up again this year and if he can cut down on his interceptions (27 last year) and the defense shapes up, then Purdue could nudge itself over the .500 hump.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-superior, Rushing-fair*
Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-good*

IOWA (4-7)

Coach Bob Commings expects continued improvement as he heads into his fifth year at Iowa. The Hawkeyes return 15 starters and 36 players off the two-deep from the final game of 1977. That's a lot of experience, and Commings hopes to crack the Big Ten's first division with it.

Highlight of the year, undoubtedly, was the 12-10 upset of state rival Iowa State. The Cyclone hadn't been on the Hawkeye schedule in an eon, but once negotiations were concluded and the game set, the contest again became an instant classic. It was probably Commings' biggest victory.

But Commings would like to do better in the Big Ten. To achieve this, Iowa will have to improve its offense, especially the running game, which ranked eighth in the Big Ten. A pass defense that rated ninth in the conference also must be patched up.

Coming up with a quarterback to replace Tom McLaughlin will be the first order of business. McLaughlin missed three games but still threw for 1,081 yards, hitting .513 percent of his passes. The coach's son, Bob Jr., took over during McLaughlin's absence and triggered Iowa to the big win over Iowa State. In all, Commings completed 21 of 43 aerials (.488). Two other QB candidates are Pete Gales and Jeff Green. The trio is all sophomores.

The passing game will be bolstered by the return of all top receivers, including split end Mike Brady who paced the Hawkeyes with 26 receptions in 1977. Also on hand is wingback Jim Frazier (12 catches) and tight end Jim Swift (11 grabs).

The top six running backs return including fullback Jon Lazar, who had led the team in rushing two straight years. Lazar had 411 yards and a 4.1-yard average last year, including three touchdowns. He also had 19 receptions (second best on the club).

Joining Lazar in the backfield will be speedy tailback Dennis Mosley, who missed half of last season with an injury. Despite such handicaps, Mosley gained 327 yards and averaged 5.5 yards per carry. Rod Morton, a tailback who averaged 4.2 yards per carry last year, provides depth.

Iowa must replace two fine offensive linemen, center Jim Hilgenberg and tackle Barry Tomasetti. Also gone is right guard Rich Cunningham. Mark Callaghan, Hilgenberg's backup, also has departed, leaving the center position up to a non-letterman. Hilgenberg's younger brother, Jay, will get a chance. Doug Benschoter may inherit Tomasetti's spot with Gret Gilbaugh the favorite for Cunningham's guard position.

Mainstay of the interior five should be guard Mike Mayer, a three time letterman. Sam Palladino, at tackle, is another returning regular.

In all, 17 of the top 22 offensive players return.

The Hawkeye defense will be led by middle linebacker Tom Rusk, a bona fide All-America candidate who was named first-team All-Big Ten by both wire services last year. Rusk, 6-2, 235, established a school-record for solo stops last year with 105, 60 more than his nearest competitor.

Only absentees among the top 22 are right linebacker Dean Moore, cornerback Rod Sears and strong safety Shanty Burks. Moore was a good one, finishing second to Rusk in solo and total tackles. He'll be replaced by Bryan Skradis, a sophomore.

Completing the linebacking corps will be senior Mike Jackson.

The front four is spearheaded by tackle John Harty, a second-team All-Big Ten selection last year as a freshman. The 6-6, 260 pounder should be even better this year. Harty will be flanked by right end Steve Vasquez and tackle mate Mark Mahmens, who was switched from center. Left end Darrell Hobbs (6-6, 250) completes the four. The unit played well last year, allowing 3.5 yards per rush against the likes of Michigan, Ohio State, and UCLA.

Dave Becker at free safety and Cedric Shaw at cornerback head up the secondary.

Dave Holsclaw opened last season as Iowa's punter and was pressed into double duty as the placement specialist. He responded well to the challenge, setting school records for field goals in a game (four), field goals in a season (nine) and longest (51 yards). He also punted 73 times for 35.8 yards and kicked off.

Iowa's schedule is nearly identical to last year's, the only exception being the addition of Utah in place of UCLA. Road games at Ohio State and Michigan State look particularly tough while home contests against Iowa State and Michigan are sellouts.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The Hawkeyes should have a pretty good defense, especially against the run, but whether they're able to flirt with .500 may depend on how the quarterback situation develops. Should Iowa field a respresentative offense, the task would be that much simpler.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-fair, Rushing-good*
Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-very good*

WISCONSIN (5-6)

For Wisconsin, last year was really two. There was the beginning half, a perfect 5-0 mark and a place in the top 20; and the second half, an equally perfect (or imperfect) 0-6 log that chased Badger coach John Jardine and led to the appointment of Dave McClain as Wisconsin's 24th grid mentor.

McClain seems well-qualified for his assignment, having learned his trade from the likes of Woody Hayes, Bo Schembechler and Pepper Rodgers before making his own mark (46-25-3 to be exact) with Ball State in the Mid-America Conference.

And while the competition figures to be every bit as keen as it was in the MAC, the athletes McClain will be dealing with at Wisconsin should be bigger, stronger, faster, and, yes, more talented than those that he had at Ball State.

To be sure, McClain didn't inherit an empty cupboard. The Badger defense, for instance, so instrumental in the team's rapid start last season, returns nine regulars from the squad that finished second in the Big Ten in passing defense and third in total defense. When Michigan and Ohio State are in your league, that's pretty good.

The only worry McClain should have on defense is the right flank where end and linebacker have been left vacant by graduation. Nevertheless, it appears that McClain has suitable replacements at both positions. Curt Blaskowski, a quick sophomore, and two-time letterman Mike Burt are battling for the end spot with Kurt Holm, a pro sized (6-3, 235) junior, conceded the linebacker spot. The remainder of the line and linebacking crew is blue chip.

Up Front, the Badgers boast second-team All-Big Ten tackle Tom Schremp and Dave Ahrens, a freshman All-America last year. Filling out the line is nose guard Dan Relich and tackle Bruce Woodford.

Dave Crossen, working on his fourth monogram, joins Holm at linebacker. Crossen led the team in solo (85), assisted (90) and total tackles (175) last year.

The secondary possesses 10 letters and is the most experienced in the Big Ten. Lawrence Johnson and Greg Gordon are at the corners with Dan Schieble and Scott Erdmann at the safeties. Badger opponents found the airwaves virtually closed last year, completing just 58 of 149 passes (38 percent) for only four touchdowns. Seven were intercepted.

Offensively, six starters return, but three-quarters of the backfield will be among the missing. Charles Green, who directed the Badgers to an opening 26-0 victory over Illinois, only to be injured in his next start, will assume the quarterback duties for good. Green showed 34 completions in 64 attempts for 408 yards and two TDs last year.

Green's most potent offensive weapon will be halfback Ira Matthews, the Badgers' second leading rusher in '77 with 351 yards on 73 carries for a 4.8-yard average. Matthews also caught 10 passes for 147 yards, returned 10 kickoffs 167 yards and 13 punts 33 yards. In 1976 he paced the nation in kickoff returns and was the only player to return two kickoffs for TDs. Joining Green and Matthews in the backfield will be fullback Joe Rodriguez and halfback Ton Strauss, both backups last year. Rodriguez gained 69 yards on 17 carries for a 4.0-yard average while Strauss had a 4.3-yard average based on 99 yards in 23 attempts.

The receiving corps is in good shape with the return of split end David Charles and tight end Greg Barber. Charles has been Wisconsin's leading receiver the past two years while ranking second and third in the Big Ten in 1976 and '77. He was second-team All-Conference both of those seasons.

Barber, who stands 6-4 and tips in at 220, is an excellent target and fine blocker. He had 10 catches last year.

The interior of the offensive front is secure but a pair of tackles must be found. Jim Moore will pivot for guards Brad Jackomino and Dave Krall. The trio have two letters apiece. Ray Snell, a hulking 6-4, 260-pounder will inherit the right tackle spot but the left side is a problem where last year's starter and backup both have graduated.

Placement specialist Steve Veitch returns but a punter must be developed.

Wisconsin's schedule is a favorable one, seven of the 11 games at home. The Badgers open with Richmond, travel to Northwestern, come home for Oregon and Indiana and are on the road against Illinois before things really get rough. After that it's Michigan, Michigan State, Ohio State, and Purdue. Iowa and Minnesota complete the schedule. Obviously, the Badgers better get some momentum going before the Michigan game.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: McClain must avoid the morale collapse that doomed his predecessor last year if the Badgers are to improve on last season's disappointing 5-6 mark. Again, Wisconsin should be in good shape approaching the Michigan game, but it's how the Badgers do afterward that will really determine what kind of year it will be. The defense should be excellent; the offense adequate but it will be this team's character (or lack of it) that will speak as loudly as physical performances.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-good, Rushing-fair*
Defense: *Against passing-excellent, Against rushing-very good*

ILLINOIS (3-8)

Gary Moeller's second edition of the Fighting Illini figures to have more punch than the unit last year that could produce only three victories in

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11 outings. Moeller credits competition and enthusiasm.

"We've got a lot of work to do obviously," he says, "but I am really excited because the players are excited about getting back to work to improve themselves and about competing for open positions."

Leading the way will be 31 returning lettermen (the most in five years) plus five junior college transfers.

The defensive unit should be strong with nine regulars returning, including John Sullivan, an "All" candidate at linebacker. In front of Sullivan will be the Big Ten's leading tackler for a loss in Bruce Thornton and two-year regular Jim Kogut.

Between the two, at the noseguard position, is the main concern for the Illini defenders, but with the return of Stanley Ralph from knee surgery, relief seems to be in sight. Two JC transfers will also be vying for starting berths: Bill Donaldson at defensive end Tim Holm at defensive back.

"The key thing defensively," says Moeller, "is the matter of our players gaining confidence in what they are doing plus getting a broader understanding of our defensive concept." Added Moeller, "I feel we will be wiser on defense. That was our biggest problem last fall. At times we did not play very smart and of course that comes with experience. We played a lot of young people and it was a learning process for most of them. We will be better this year."

The Illini surrendered 292 points last year. Opponents passed at 59.2 percent completion rate and picked up ground yardage at a 4.7-yard clip. Both figures will have to be greatly cut if Illinois is to show improvement this fall.

Commenting further, Moeller offered, "On offense, our communication will be better than a year ago. We know more about our players and they have a clearer understanding of our scheme of attack. We will add a few new wrinkles to our offense and look at some players at different positions, but we must improve our techniques as a team and become better fundamentally."

The quarterback spot is wide open with the graduation of regulars Kurt Steger and Mike McCray. Moeller feels that sophomores Rich Weiss and Tim McAvoy are both fine prospects for the starting role along with junior college transfer Lawrence McCullough. All three have good speed and quickness, requirements for running the Illinois option attack with authority.

Tailback prospects include Clarence Baker, Vincent Carter, Greg Foster and junior college speedster Larry Powell. Baker had 131 yards and a 4.1-yard average last year while Carter chipped in with 116 yards and a 6.8 mark. Foster only carried the ball nine times. James Coleman, the Illini's top rusher last year, may be missed.

Wayne Strader and Charlie Weber return to the fullback spot, supplying depth and efficiency. Strader rolled for 348 yards and a 5.1-yard mark while Weber had figures of 369 and 4.2.

At the receiver positions, all regulars return. The group includes tight end Lee Boeke (11 catches last year), swingback Tom Schooley (15 grabs to lead the club), and split end Eric Rouse (10 catches).

The offensive line will be vastly improved with the return of tight end Mike Sherrod from a knee injury. That allows massive sophomore Tim Norman to devote all his time to tackle. Former starter Dan Melsek also returns from knee surgery to battle for a regular job. John Glinski, at 6-5, 265, should add even more strength to the tackle position with his size and junior college experience.

The kicking game was capably handled by a pair of freshman last season in punter Dave Finzer and kickoff man Cliff Jones. Finzer finished the year with a 37.3 average while Jones displayed a strong leg.

The Hoosiers play every Big Ten opponent with the exception of Iowa. Also on the sked are Stanford, Syracuse and Missouri.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Inexperience at quarterback could offset the gains made by the rest of the offensive platoon and Illinois could again struggle getting on the scoreboard. The defense is better but the Illini still aren't ready to make a big move in the conference yet.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-fair, Rushing-good*
Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-fair*

NORTHWESTERN (1-10)

Northwestern's new head coach Rick Venturi isn't awed with the prospect of rebuilding the Wildcat football program in the wake of last year's disappointing 1-10 season.

"We are going to play exciting, crowd-pleasing football. It will be fun for our players and a treat to watch. In the process we're going to make the best use of the skills of our squad members."

The key to the Wildcats' offensive success could very well be the resolution of the quarterback choice. Scott Stranski, Steve Breibeil, Kevin Strasser, Bill Dierberger, Dana Hemphill and Bill Weir all are in contention. Stranski saw the most action last year but hit on only 38.9 percent of his passes.

Sophs Dave Mischler, Mike Cammon, Tim Hill and Don Johnson all have game experience and will be in contention for the running back spots. Mischler was the Wildcats' leading rusher in '77 and his quickness will be fully utilized in '78 with plans for him to receive more passes, too.

Receiver Todd Sheets, a Big Ten standout who averaged 24.9 yards per catch, will need to find company if the passing game is going to improve. Rod Roberson, one of the Wildcats' cage stars, will be among those getting a close look.

The offensive line is a "Rebuilding" must. Again there is size but experience is limited. Tackles John Schober and Jim Ford are big and mobile. Center Mike Fiedler has the game time after two years, and at 6-2, 235, he is big and agile enough to play against most. Kevin Kenyon could be an important factor as a backup but help is dearly needed at guard and overall depth is thin.

The basic four-man front will key Venturi's "multiple defense."

Hopefully, for Wildcat faithful, Mike Weitzman will bounce back from knee surgery to lead the tackle contingent. Norm Wells is next in line; however, Joe Corona, Bruce Robinett, Jim Dunlea and Bill Greer will press for play time.

With last year's excellent ends (6-4, 200 pound Dean Payne and 6-3, 215 pound Kevin Berg) moving to linebacker, the wing posts are wide open. Top candidates are Mike Kendzicky, Curt Grell, Chuck Rogers and Tom Ahern.

Payne and Berg will give the Wildcats strength at the outside linebacker positions and a pair of candidates for all-league honors. Sophomores Tim Lawrence and Steve Pals are now identified as capable backups.

Middle linebacker will be a critical spot with Paul Maly graduated. Scott Duncan, leading tackler in 1977, heads the group manning the position. Veteran Jim Miller, Blaine Ogilivie and Jake Hardin provide strong support.

In the secondary, versatile Pat Geegan returns at strong safety with John Burns as his backup. Guy Knafelc and Steve Bobowski provide experience at cornerback. David Hoffman can play at free safety and serve as a backup cornerback, too.

The placekicking chores will be between Nick Mirkopulous, Sam Poulos and walk-on John Hsu. Mirkopulous was sidelined during the majority of last season but has reported healthy and is regaining his form. In 1976 Mirkopulous was 6-11 in field goals including 51 and 49 yarders.

The punting chores are up for grabs following the graduation of Paul Martin. Soph Bob Schmitt served as a part-timer last season averaging 34.4 yards in 36 tries.

Northwestern faces a rough schedule. Every Big Ten team is included plus Colorado and Arizona State—both formidable in their leagues.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The Wildcats lack outstanding talent and will struggle both offensively and defensively. Two wins would be an accomplishment, three an achievement and four a miracle.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-poor, Rushing-fair*
Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-poor*

Tar Heel Defense Just Won't Crum-ble

ACC CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE COMPARISON

TEAM	PREDICTED FINISH	LETTERMEN		STARTERS RET.		STARTERS LOST	
		Returning	Lost	Offense	Defense	Offense	Defense
North Carolina	First	45	17	7	7	4	4
Clemson	Second	43	15	7	7	4	4
North Carolina State	Third	32	23	7	5	4	6
Maryland	Fourth	30	22	7	7	4	4
Duke	Fifth	34	10	6	8	5	3
Wake Forest	Sixth	40	21	5	7	6	4
Virginia	Seventh	33	18	9	9	2	2

NORTH CAROLINA (8-3-1)

Fourteen returning starters, four top all-star candidates and a new coaching staff with a tradition of excellence insures that Carolina's football future will be as florious as its recent past.

Carolina posted an 8-3-1 record last fall, won the Atlantic Coast Conference Championship and earned a berth in the Liberty Bowl.

Many of the stars of that team are back, giving the Tar Heels high hopes for another strong season.

Heading the list of returnees are four players who were All-ACC selections last year. The quartet is composed of guard Mike Salzano, defensive end Ken Sheets, running back Famous Amos Lawrence and linebacker Buddy Curry.

Despite the return of all these players, there will be some alterations in the Tar Hell football program inherit in any coaching change. Dick Crum, who guided Miami of Ohio to a 34-10-1 record over the past four years, has replaced Bill Dooley as head coach. Crum has brought an entirely new coaching staff with him to Chapel Hill.

Under Crum, Carolina will continue use of the 52 defense but will switch to the veer from the "I" Dooley used so successfully for 11 years.

Crum's Miami teams were known for their defense and Carolina, which led the nation is scoring defense last year, has the ability to be an outstanding defensive team again this year. If the defense, which led the ACC in every category, is to be solid again, then replacements must be found for All-America tackle Dee Hardison, All-ACC tackle Rod Broadway, linebacker Bobby Gay and All-ACC strong safety Alan Caldwell. Those are the four missing starters from last year's defense.

Carolina will be especially strong at end. Sheets is quick and has great natural ability while his mate at the other terminal, T.K. McDaniels, gives little away. At nose guard, Dave Simmons is a potential all-star.

Bunn Rhames and Donnell Thompson played behind Hardison and Broadway last season and will be the starting tackles this fall. Both have good ability.

Crum must come up with a linebacker to play opposite Curry. Curry had a sensational sophomore season, topping it off by being named Carolina's top defensive player in the Liberty Bowl. Battling for the other starting spot are Steve Taylor, Rick Downs, Paul Davis, Harry Stanback and Larry Tedder.

Bernie Menapace, Bobby Cale and Ricky Barden are set at three spots in the secondary. All played well last season and could contend for ACC honors this season.

Best bets for Caldwell's old starting job are Francis Winters and Steve Streater.

Offensively, the Tar Heels have the potential to be explosive. Lawrence gives Carolina a back capable of scoring from anywhere on the field. He ran for 1,211 yards in 10 games last season, although he only started the final six and averaged 6.3 yards per carry. He finished eighth in the nation in rushing and broke Tony Dorsett's single game freshman rushing record by gaining 286 yards against Virginia. The switch from the "I" to the veer should give him even more opportunities this season.

There are a host of candidates for the other running back slot. Bob Loomis and Billy Johnson, who split time at fullback last year, are two of the contenders. Doug Paschal, Lawrence's backup last year, is another. In all, Carolina has the top seven rushers from last year returning.

Matt Kupec, a junior, returns for his third year as the starting quarterback. Kupec threw for seven touchdowns last year, completing 56.2 percent of his passes. He was the offensive MVP in the Liberty Bowl.

The race for the three receiving posts is wide open. The starting wide receivers will probably come from a group that includes Jim Rouse, Delbert Powell, Carey Casey and Wayne Tucker. Jimmy Roberson, Rick Vanhoy, Mike Chartman and Kenny Rogers are all in the running for the tight end spot.

Carolina has long prided itself on its offensive lines and this year's edition should be right up to par. The key man is Salzano, a third-team All-America last year who Crum calls "a superior football player."

Other returning starters in the line are guard John Rushing and tackles Bobby Hukill and Steve Junkmann. Hukill, starting his third season, is one of the best in the league. Rick Donnalley should replace graduated Scott Davison at center.

Placekicker Tom Biddle, who holds all of Carolina's kick-scoring records, and punter Johnny Elam have graduated. Incoming freshman Jeff Hayes is being counted on to replace

Ted Brown is Heisman candidate.

Biddle. Loomis or Streater could be the new punter.

Carolina has scheduled Pittsburgh, Miami of Ohio, East Carolina, South Carolina, and Richmond in addition to all six ACC foes. There are pitfalls, like the trips to Pittsburgh and Clemson, but the Tar Heels should be ready.

ACCU-LINE CONSLUSION: Except for uncertainty in the kicking game, Carolina is a team without any visible weaknesses. All-stars abound and the Tar Heels have an excellent chance to repeat their ACC title, gain another bowl bid, and finish among the nation's elite.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-good, Rushing-superior*

Defense: *Against passing-superior, Against rushing-excellent*

CLEMSON (8-3-1)

One year ago the theme was to regain respectability. This year, following an 8-3-1 campaign and Gator Bowl berth, Atlantic Coast Conference Coach of the Year Charley Pell is trying to lay another level on the successful foundation built in '77.

Last year saw the Tigers win the most games and make their first bowl appearance since 1958. Clemson found itself ranked as high as tenth at one point in the season and played well even in the games it lost.

The challenge, then, for '78, is to rebuild in some critical areas and continue the momentum forged last year.

Back for the Tigers are a total of 14 starters in a group of 43 lettermen.

Offensively, the Tigers will rally round quarterback Steve Fuller, the Atlantic Coast Conference Player of the Year in '77. Fuller, a 52 pecent passer, broke the Clemson standards for passing yardage (1,655) and total offense (2,092) last season. And, somewhat unbelievably, Fuller already is the all-time Clemson offensive leader despite having a year remaining.

The fullback and tailback spots are not nearly as established but the potential is there. Because of injuries, four different people played fullback in '77, Tracy Perry, Marvin Sims, Chuck Rose and Rick Wyatt. Perry and Sims were the most active, but neither had a clear-cut advantage over the other.

The tailback position is much the same with Pell waiting on someone to take charge. "We are still looking for someone to break out of the pack and establish himself as the most effective," explains the Tiger head coach. Four players will get the bulk of the work — Lester Brown, Warren Ratchford, Harold Goggins and Willie Underwood, the latter moved from defensive back. Ratchford returns as the Tigers' leading ground gainer in each of the last two seasons and now ranks ninth on the all-time Clemson log. Last year he picked up 616 yards and had a 5.2-yard average. Meanwhile, Brown, who alternated with Ratchford last season, gained 437 yards but more importantly, scored nine touchdowns for a team high 54 points.

The receiver corps will serve to showcase the talents of Jerry Butler, the Tigers' split end. Butler had 47 catches last year resulting in 824 yards, a 17.5-yard average and four touchdowns.

Dwight Clark, the No. 3 man last year, will return at flanker with Anthony King, who came on strong at the end of '77, the man to beat at tight end.

Pell considers the offensive line and its reconstruction "probably the most critical area." Gone are two three-year starters — tackles Lacy Brumley (All-ACC in '77) and Jimmy Weeks.

Returning are a trio — the brother combo of Joe and Jeff Bostic plus Steve Kenney — who provide a solid nucleus to build on, but relief must come. Joe Bostic was the Jacobs Blocking Trophy recipient, recognizing him as the ACC's top offensive lineman. Brother Jeff, a junior, started all 11 games at center and earned All-State laurels. Kenney is a senior guard who is one of Clemson's most consistent performers. Pell will choose from nearly a dozen aspirants to fill the tackle spots.

Much like the offensive line, three of the starting front five return for the defensive line but the Tigers must find help at tackle and develop depth. The Tigers' defense ranked 12th nationally in scoring defense last year and the front five was a major reason why.

The returnees — tackle Jim Stuckey, end Jonathan Brooks (All-ACC in '77) and middle guard Rich Tuten — are solid but two more dependable players, at least, must be developed.

With the off-season surgery to Randy Scott, one of the top linebackers in the conference, Jim Goehring, his back up, plus the graduation of Ronnie Smith, the linebacking corps appears depleted. Bubba Brown looks like he can do the job, but beyond that, Pell will have to do some shuffling.

Another area of great concern to Pell is the defensive secondary where a pair of starters have departed. Steve Ryan (All-ACC in '77) spearheads the returnees. Rex Varn is another regular with eligibility remaining. Eddie Geathers, Willie Jordan, Bubba Rollins, Ogden Hansford and Al Latimer are being counted on to make a strong contribution this year.

Obed Ariri, Clemson's long-range bomber, is back for the placements but a punter must be found. David Sims did the job last year, but a pulled hamstring is still bothering him and curtailing his effectiveness. Tony Masone, his backup last year, may be forced into service.

Clemson's non-conference schedule is not challenging — Citadel, Villanova, Virginia Tech, Georgia and South Carolina — so the Tigers can concentrate on preparing for the big ACC contests.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The Tigers have some holes to fill, especially on defense, but Pell has laid the groundwork for a successful program at Clemson and his team should continue to be a force to reckon with in the ACC this year.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-very good, Rushing-good*

Defense: *Against passing-very good, Against rushing-very good*

N.C. STATE (8-4)

Although 22 seniors, including 10 starters, have departed from the team that surprised Iowa State, 24-14, in the Peach Bowl, the Wolfpack appears to have the earmarks of another formidable club if solutions can be found to several obvious problems, namely at quarterback, overall depth and in the kicking game.

But no preview of North Carolina State football can start any other place than with sensational running back Ted Brown. Brown has had an amazing career to date and likely will finish among the NCAA's top five all-time rushers. The 5-10, 188-pound senior enters the season with 3,252 yards rushing, and a career average of 5.8 yards per carry. Last year was a typical one for Brown. He gained 1,-251 yards (5.7), led the team in receiving (24) and scored 14 touchdowns. The multi-decorated All-America is being billed as a bona fide Heisman candidate and one can hardly argue with such promotion.

Joining Brown in the backfield will be fullback Billy Ray Vickers, a pretty

good runner in his own right. Vickers amassed 726 yards last year (a 4.9 average) and also did a good job blocking.

Evans, who also punted for a 42.2-yard average, will be difficult to replace. Scott Smith, John Isley, Todd Baker and transfer Rob Wheat will compete for Evans' quarterback spot.

Whoever wins the position will have some strong receivers in tight end Lin Dawson (nine catches, 21.9 average) and split end Randy Hall (13 grabs, 23.9 average).

The offensive line is experienced and proficient, led by center Jim Ritcher, 1 6-3, 225-pounder who can run a 4.6 forty and bench press over 400 pounds. Joining Ritcher are tackles Chris Dieterich and Frank Hitt. Other proven linemen include Chuck Stone, Ricky Olive and Tim Gillespie.

N.C. State won the Atlantic Coast Conference rushing title last year with 250.4 yards per game, and with the return of Brown and Co., the Wolfpack will attempt to duplicate such statistics again this season.

Defensively, the Wolfpack will sorely miss Richard Carter and Ralph Stringer, a pair of all-conference backs. But, despite these and other losses, including middle guard A.W. Jenkins and tackle Tom Prongay, the defensive unit, which yielded only 167 points last year after giving up 258 in 1976, should be adequate. A lot will depend on the rehabilitation of massive tackle Bubba Green, a hulking 6-5, 275-pounder who sat out last year with a knee injury following a sensational freshman campaign. Green, who was chosen on a half-dozen pre-season All-America teams last fall, hails from Millerville High where he twice was named Player of the Year in the greater Philadelphia area.

Joining Green on the defensive line will be tackle Simon Gupton, a 255-pounder who also can do the job.

Linebackers Kyle Wescoe and Bill Cowher, who led the team in tackles last year with a combined total of 339, return for their senior campaigns along with Joe Hannah and letterman Jon Hall at the ends and Woodrow Wilson at safety. Wilson led the team in pass interceptions last season, nailing four for 32 yards. He also brought back punts.

Others who will be counted on heavily include Brian O'Doherty and John Foy at the tackles, John Stanton at middle guard, Marion Gale at end, James Butler at linebacker and backs Larry Eberheart, Mike Nall, who missed last season, Ronnie Lee, Donnie LeGrande, who led the team in punt returns and also brings back kickoffs, Ralph Sandello and Eddie Jackson.

The kicking unit, a Wolfpack strength the past few seasons, must be rebuilt. Besides replacing Evans, coach Bo Rein must come up with someone to replace placekicker Jay Sherrill, who kicked nine of 16 field goals and all 28 of his attempted extra points.

Rein's assessment of the Wolfpack's '78 chances appears cautiously optimistic. "While we have some shoes to fill," admits Rein, "I feel we have enough quality athletes returning to develop into a good football team."

N.C. State's schedule is nearly identical with last year's with the exception of West Virginia being substituted for Auburn. The Wolfpack starts out with three straight home games (East Carolina, Syracuse, and West Virginia) before travelling to Wake Forest for the first of four straight ACC games.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: N.C. State's offensive output may reflect not only the accomplishments of Brown, but how well and how quickly the Wolfpack develops an aerial game to go with it. The ground game, certainly, will be productive, but if foes have to fear the pass too, that will make Brown and Vickers that much more effective. Defensively, Rein will count on a strong rush from Green and Gupton to compensate for a lack of starting experience in the secondary.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-fair, Rushing-Excellent.*

Defense: *Against passing-good, Against rushing-very good.*

MARYLAND (8-4)

If you ask a sports-minded person to name a famous Maryland University coach, the probable response would be Lefty Driesell, the outspoken basketball mentor. However, the more successful Terrapin leader is actually Jerry Claiborne, who has simply done a masterful job in building Maryland into a perennial football power.

When Claiborne arrived at College Park, the Terps had registered a 25-66 record during the previous nine seasons. In six years his teams have won 48 games (48-20), been nationally ranked four years and visited five consecutive bowls. He's been named ACC Coach of the Year three times and his club won a record three straight ACC titles.

The Terrapins lose some key personnel from the '77 club but you can be sure Claiborne will find a way to mold a winner.

The greatest need is to find a quarterback now that Mark Magnes and Larry Dick, the two top guns from last season, have graduated. Brent Dewitz is an incoming freshman and he might be awarded the job as there are a limited amount of qualified signal callers.

The running back situation is one of the strong points, as George Scott (916 yards, 4.8 avg.) and Steve Atkins, whose injuries limited him to 629 yards, lead the line of strong and elusive ball carriers. Steve Koziol, Alvin Maddox, and Mickey Dudish round out the experience rushers, and there are several promising first-year men.

The receiving corps will miss Vince Kinney and Chuck White, but wingback Dean Richards is after his fourth letter and his three-years' stats include 45 receptions for 658 yards, while gaining 157 yards rushing and adding 291 yards in punt returns. Tight end Eric Sievers is a goodlooking, muscular target and has been improving at a promising pace and may be doing the bulkwark of catching the ball in the upcoming season.

Offensive tackle Larry Stewart is the best interior linemen, as the huge (6-4, 275) junior is the most effective blocker. Glenn Chamberlain, Jim Ulam, and Kervin Wyatt should nail down three other spots, but Claiborne is searching for a center.

The defensive standout is senior tackle Charlie Johnson, the outstanding defender in the Hall of Fame game. Joining Johnson up front will be Jim Shaffer, Keith Calta, Bruce Palmer, Marlin Van Horn, and Ed Gall, providing plenty of depth in keeping up the Maryland tradition of a fierce defensive line.

Brad Carr and John Douglas have departed and will leave the linebacking to Neal Olkewizc and Brian Matera. The former has seen more playing time while the latter still needs some grooming.

Speedy Lloyd Burruss is a fine cornerback and should at least match last year's total of four interceptions. Jonathan Claiborne won't be back at free safety, and the leading contender to fill his role is Ralph Larry. Chris Ward completes the deep three.

Another large loss for the Terrapins was the graduation of placekicker and punter Mike Sochko who averaged nearly 41 yards per punt.

The ACC has improved over the past few years and is considered a very formidable league. North Carolina and Clemson are excellent teams and they'll be the main opposition once again. Out of conference contest include Tulane, Louisville, Kentucky, Syracuse, and Penn State. They meet the UNC Tar Heels on the road, but have Clemson and N.C. State, another toughie, at Home.

ACCU—LINE CONCLUSION: The lack of an established quarterback is Claiborne's greatest worry. He seems to have the supporting cast offensively, but he needs a guy to make it all go. The Terps always give a fine account of themselves defensively, and with the majority of starters back, things will remain steady.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-fair, Rushing-very good*

Defense: *Against Passing-very good, Against Rushing-good*

DUKE (5-6)

If the Blue Devils are to make a fuss in the Atlantic Coast Conference, it will have to come this season, the last year of eligibility for Michael Dunn, Duke's heralded quarterback. This will be Dunn's fourth year in-a-row that coach Mike McGee has handed the starting signal-caller role to him. So far, in three seasons, Dunn has amassed over 4,500 yards in total offense and looks like a sure bet to overtake Leo Hart as the all-time ACC leader. A true triple threat, Dunn has completed over 52 percent of his career passes for 2,843 yards and has rushed for 1,746 yards and 21 touchdowns. In '77 he set a Duke record by tossing 105 consecutive passes over a six game stretch without an interception.

But Dunn, who missed leading the team in rushing by just three yards, cannot do it all alone. Aiding him this year will be a pair of bruising fullbacks, junior Ned Gonet and soph Stanley Broadie. Gonet picked up 312 yards and four touchdowns before being sidelined at mid-season. He was twice named ACC Rookie-of-the-Week. Broadie, who became a freshman starter when Gonet went to the sidelines, wound up leading the club in rushing with 579 yards, a 4.4-yard average and five touchdowns. Broadie's potential seems unlimited since he never played in the offensive backfield before coming to Duke.

Returning on the offensive line are three starters — junior tight end Joel Patten, senior offensive guard Tom Luongo and junior center Kevin Kelly. Luongo, when healthy, ranks with the best in the conference. There are some holes to be filled, too. Guard Mike Sandusky, as well as tackle Frank DeStefano and John Patterson have walked the commencement line, thrusting lettermen Ken Staudinger, Bob Riordan and Tom Brazill into possible starting roles.

Jerry Claiborne advises Terrapins.

Duke averaged a so-so 3.9 yards per rush last year but the offensive interior must shape up if the Blue Devils are even to duplicate that statistic. A viable ground game also is important to Dunn's success as a passer.

Wide receiver Jeff Comer heads up the receiving corps. Comer, who has alternated with All-ACC Tom Hall the past two seasons, caught 15 passes in 1977 for 264 yards and one touchdown. Hall, who had 33 grabs last year to lead the team, will be tough to replace. Others who will battle for receiving slots include junior speedster Derrick Lewis and junior varsity standout John Brinkman.

Defensively, Duke returns 16 lettermen and six starters.

The unit will be paced by linebacker Carl McGee, an All-America candidate who led the team in tackles (134) and sacks last year (nine) after being tabbed All-ACC as a sophomore. McGee will team with fellow linebacker Bill King. King twice was named defensive player-of-the-week by the conference. Two-year letterman John McDonald provides excellent depth and experience at this key position.

Up front, the Blue Devils lost starters Lyman Smith, Jeff Green and Warren Knop. Green was a four-year letterman and Smith won the team's Best Defensive Lineman Award. Lettermen Tim Cadigan, Scott Hamilton and Greg Pritchard will be counted on to fill the gaps in the interior. Senior starters Derrick Mashore and Andy Schoenhoft will return to anchor the unit.

Four part-time starters return in the secondary but several newcomers will have an excellent chance to break into the lineup. Sophomore Gary Garstkiewicz is one of the leading candidates for a starting position after a stellar season on the junior varsity. Ricky Sommers and George Gawdun also are likely starters. Gawdun also does a good job bringing back punts.

Sophomore Ricky Brummitt likely will handle both the punting and placement chores this season. He averaged only 35.7-yards per punt last year but came on strong at the end and improvement is expected.

Duke opens its schedule at home against Georgia Tech and South Carolina before traveling to unfriendly Ann Arbor for a match with top-notch Michigan. Road games at Clemson, Tennessee, North Carolina and North Carolina State also appear tough.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The presence of Mike Dunn for one final year brings with it the promise of some offensive fireworks, although M.D. certainly could use some more support. The Blue Devil defense is just adequate and a burdensome road schedule likely will take its toll.

OUTLOOK

Offensive: *Passing-very good, Rushing-good*

Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-fair*

WAKE FOREST (1-10)

Former Wake Forest quarterback John Mackovic takes over this year as the Deacons ' new head coach, but the problems that plagued his predecessor — an unproductive offense and porous defense — still remain.

Mackovic, who played in the same backfield (1964) with Brian Piccolo that led the Atlantic Coast Conference in total offense, will be looking for more offensive punch than last year 's 113-point production. He 'll have five starters back, but the aerial game has all but departed. Gone is quarterback Mike McGlamry who threw for 1,532 yards on 52.8 percent accuracy. Gone too, is All-ACC tight end Steve Young (51 catches for 483 yards) and flanker John Zeglinski (31 grabs for 486 yards).

Quarterback will be Mackovic 's first concern, especially since the former Purdue aide plans to implement a wide-open aerial game. Only Norm Snead rates above McGlamry in career passing stats in Winston-Salem, so the problem is a critical one. Mackovic likely will choose between Ken Daly, the best available passer, and Bob Hely, a good runner and adequate passer. Both got some, but not much, playing time last year.

Syd Kitson is the heir apparent to Young 's TE spot but Zeglinski 's flanker spot truly is up for grabs. JC transfer Ed Wright is a speedburner while Larry Ingram has a smidge of experience at the position. The other split man, Tom Smith, caught 24 passes in 1977 and has all-star capabilities.

The offensive line is another problem area for Mackovic. All-ACC center Larry Tearry, a three-year standout, has graduated and left a void which may be one of the hardest on the team to fill. His backups, soph Joe Happe and senior Barry Sikes, played little.

At guard, one starter is lost (Carmen Frangiosa) and one is back (Tim Davis). Davis is an experienced senior. His mate could be Jim Smith, the favorite, or any of a quarter of other hopefuls: Sid Jackson, Terry Blanch, Rob Brassell and Matt Harnisch.

Jackie Robinson is a blue-chipper at tackle, possibly one of the ACC 's best. The hulking 6-3, 260-pounder will be breaking in a new partner, either Andy Young or Greg Kincade.

If the offensive line can be patched up and a reasonable passing game mounted, the rushing attack could be very good. One wonders what tailback James McDougald could have accomplished under better circumstances last year. With 987 yards and a wave of injuries, he just missed being the first ACC player to ever gain 1,000 yards in both his freshman and sophomore years. The All-ACC selection averaged 4.1 yards per carry and scored five touchdowns.

INTRODUCING

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James McDougald awakens Wake.

Joining him in the backfield will be fullback Stan Rolark, who started every game but was used primarily as a blocker last year. Jimmy Hargrove, Ronchie Johnson and Bob Ventresca are capable backups who lend depth and experience.

The Wake Forest defense surrendured 280 points last year (over 25 per game) but seven starters return and there is hope for improvement.

On the line, the end positions turned out to be plusses rather than minuses as expected. Returning starters here are Gerry Vick, the defensive line 's top tackler and Mike Wisher and Eddie Yarnell. Those two battled on both sides of the line for starting positions as freshmen and have good potential.

Though youth abounds, tackle could be the team 's deepest position with talent, if not experience. Bruce Hopkins is the most proven performer and Frank Armstrong is a returning starter. But two frosh played a lot last year: Dwayne Crayton and Alex Brown.

James Parker seems to have the inside track at nose guard where two-year starter Reuben Turner will be missed.

Another worrisome area is linebacker where both starters from a year ago are lost. Marc Hester saw a lot of action last year and should move into one starting role with a bevy of aspirants vying for the other.

The secondary returns three of four starters, led by cornerback James Royster who tied for the ACC lead in interceptions with five. Also returning is roverback Reggie Tice and Mark Lancaster, the free safety. Lancaster led the team in tackles. Lewis Owens, who lettered as a freshman, has the edge for the open position.

Punter Barry Sikes returns as does Frank Harnisch, the placement specialist.

The Deacon schedule for 1977 is similar to last year 's except that LSU and Auburn have been substituted for Furman and Vanderbilt. Both those non-conference games are on the road.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Mackovic hasn't exactly inherited a warm bed, in fact, nobody even turned down the sheets. But optimism (expecially in a new coach) springs eternal, and the Deacons should have a new wrinkle or two which may surprise some teams. Still, this will not be a team to reckon with in the ACC as Mackovic first must plant the seeds of confidence before winning can even be considered.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-poor, Rushing-very good*

Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-fair.*

VIRGINIA (1-9-1)

There's certainly no secret why the University of Virginia football team went 1-9-1 last fall. It had a very difficult time putting the ball in the end zone. In fact, the Cavaliers only scored six touchdowns the entire season and a total of 56 points overall. That's why offense is the number one thing on coach Dick Bestwick's mind. "Offensively," says Bestwick, "I hope our fans will expect to see the football in the end zone. I certainly hope it will get there once in a while."

The Cavaliers will switch to the twin veer offense this year in hopes of generating more punch to their attack. However, unless a capable quarterback can be found or developed, no system will work for Virginia.

"Chip Mark," said Bestwick, "finished there at the end of the season. With the new offense putting a premium on the quarterback to be able to handle the option and being able to run the football, it will force Chip to have to do some things he hasn't done in the past."

What Mark hasn't been able to do is run. Last year he was minus 97 rushing. His aerial game,however, was fine as he hit 65 of 124 passes for 720 yards.

Ted Manly, a sophomore, will challenge Mark.

Up front, three experienced bodies can be found, tackles Jeff Morrow and Ric Zimmerman and guard Al Alvarez. The other two spots will be filled by sophs Kurt Pierce and Brian Musselman.

Towards the end of the year Bestwick went with a couple of freshman running backs and the duo should be better off for the experience. Tommy Vigorito wound up second on the team in rushing with 326 yards (3.4) while Greg Taylor had 67 and a 3.9-yard average.

Virginia's ground game was not exactly earth-shattering, averaging just 2.3-yards per attempt.

The passing game (if there is one) will go to the flanker Tom Champlin, split end Jim Theiling and tight end Mike Newhall. Champlin had 11 catches for 209 yards (yardage tops) and a 19.0 average. Theiling led the team in receptions with 16 while Newhall had two touchdowns among his 14 grabs.

The passing game accounted for an average of 84.5 yards per game last year, 10 less than the running game.

Nine starters are back on defense, but, admits defensive coordinator Gene Epley. "There are a number of areas where we have to become more proficient, in order to become a better defensive football team. We will have to become more aggressive and improve our tackling. We definitely have to develop better poise and more confidence so we can make the big plays."

According to Bestwick, the secondary should continue to be one of the Cavalier strong points. Tony Blount, a pre-season All-ACC pick last year at strong safety, has returned to that spot after spending all of last year as a regular inside linebacker. At a cornerback spot will be Derrick Glasper, another All-Conference prospect. Glasper is a four-year starter who led the Cavaliers in interceptions last season with five.

Bryan Shumock, who started the season at quarterback and ended it at cornerback, should start at the latter this year. Sophomore Quentin Murray completes the secondary at free safety.

The inside linebackers will be young, but for all their youth, experienced. Bryan Coleman, Mark LaNeve and Kenny Newsome all lettered last year, the latter two as freshmen. Newsome, a walk-on, earned a scholarship.

The outside linebackers started the spring injured. Steve Potter and Bill Bridges though, should be ready by game time.

Up front, the defensive tackles are good ones. Three-year letterman Lee Browning and two-year starter Grant Hudson are a formidable duo. Mike Budd, who started some as a freshman, is at nose guard.

The punting game is superb with the return of All-ACC Russ Henderson who averaged 43.6-yards on an incredible 204 punts. Henderson also added field goals to his repetoire last year, hitting five-of-eight including four in the Cavs' 12-10 win over Wake Forest.

The Virginia schedule is mostly regional with six ACC games and five other contests against nearby neighbors. Army, Navy, VMI, Virginia Tech and West Virginia are the non-conference foes.

ACCU — LINE CONCLUSION: The Cavaliers' hopes for improvement lie in a new offensive system and better performances all around. Under the circumstances, the Virginia defense wasn't all that bad last year, but the offense was the nation's most impotent. With indecision at quarterback and lack of a true star, the Cavaliers seemed destined for another unproductive fall and an extension on their lease for the ACC basement.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-fair, Rushing-poor*

Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-poor*

Pass and Prayer Cougar Prescription

WAC CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE COMPARISON

TEAM	PREDICTED FINISH	LETTERMEN		STARTERS RET.		STARTERS LOST	
		Returning	Lost	Offense	Defense	Offense	Defense
Brigham Young	First	29	24	4	7	7	4
San Diego State	Second	32	20	7	8	4	3
New Mexico	Third	44	9	8	8	3	3
Colorado State	Fourth	30	21	5	7	6	4
Wyoming	Fifth	34	17	7	7*	4	5*
Utah	Sixth	38	13	7	9	4	2
Texas El Paso	Seventh	20	17	5	3	6	8

Note: Hawaii will join the WAC in 1979
Nevada-Las Vegas will join in 1980

*Totals do not add up to 11 due to part-time status of some starters.

BYU (9-2)

Coming off back-to-back 9-2 seasons, the Cougars would like to pick up from where they left off in 1977, and judging by the team and coach LaVell Edwards' ability to recoil from adversity, they just may be able to do it.

Picture this: Gifford Nielsen, All-America, Heisman candidate, throwing bombs and BYU piling up points and burying opponents with lethal authority. Then, disaster. Nielsen goes down with an injury and Edwards hands the ball over to Marc Wilson. Who?

Wilson promptly goes bananas. A comparative unknown, by the end of the season Wilson ranks first in total offense among the players for the '78 season and fourth in passing. He sets an NCAA record with 571 yards passing against Utah and throws seven touchdown passes in—are you ready for this—his first start. He's voted the Western Athletic Conference's top back and is feted by Sports Illustrated.

Gifford who?

And the best part of all about this amazing success story is that Wilson is just a junior.

Wilson is one of only four offensive starters Edwards can welcome back, but at least he'll have two top flight receivers and someone to snap him the ball, too. It hardly seems that Wilson will require much more. The 6-5, 205 pounder (great size) will be looking for flanker Mike Chronister and tight end Tod Thompson. Chronister, an all-conference pick and honorable mention All-America last season, had 38 catches for 649 yards and 11 TDs in '77. Thompson had one less grab for 602 yards and nine scores.

Add center Tom Miller to the list of returning starters but start searching after that. First order of business will be in selecting Miller's mates. No one, even Wilson, can throw without time, so Edwards has been looking at pass blockers all spring. Fortunately for him, he has a host of last year's second-stringers just waiting to inherit starting berths.

Nevertheless, the team will be a young one. Juniors Al Gaspard and Danny Hansen look ready to assume tackle and guard roles, respectively while soph Nick Eyre probably will hold down the other tackle spot. Another guard must be found.

It will be no secret that Brigham Young will do a lot of passing this year—the Cougars led the nation in passing offense, were second in scoring offense and third in total offense—but a semblance of a ground game would do wonders for the air attack.

Four players ran the ball extensively in 1977, and two of them are back. Scott Phillips, just a sophomore, led the Cougars in all rushing categories, piling up 325 yards, a 6.9-yard average and five touchdowns. Bill Ring, a 262-yard producer with a 4.5-yard mark, will step in as the full back. Todd Christensen, a four-year starter and letterman will be missed at the fullback spot, especially in view of his receiving abilities (50 catches last year) but Ring is an able, if not dynamic, replacement.

Defensively, seven regulars are back from the underrated unit that surrendered just 165 points last year. In addition, only five players are missing from the defensive two-deep, giving Edwards exceptional depth.

The line will be paced by Mat Mendenhall, the Cougars' top defensive player. The 6-6, 230-pounder had 16 tackles for a loss last year, best on the team, in addition to causing four fumbles and accounting for 11 sacks. Joining him up front will be end Ross Varner and tackles Bob Simmerman and Doug Stromberg, the latter two inheriting starting berths.

Larry Miller and Ron Wood are back seeking their fourth monogram each at linebacker. Miller, who plays the weakside, led the team in unassisted tackles last year. Wood, the MLB, earned WAC All-Conference honors as a sophomore. Tom Enow will start on the strongside.

Bob Prestled, who stole five passes last year, heads up the secondary from his left cornerback spot. David McKee has the experience to fill in on the other side while Ron Velasco and Jason Coloma are returning starters at safety

The graduation of Dev Duke, the leading scorer on the '77 team, has Edwards worried about who will handle his placements. Brent Johnson, a returned missionary, is a good prospect. The punter will be Jim McMahon, who handled all but one punt last year and finished with a 39.3-yard average and excellent placement.

The new Western Athletic alignment has BYU facing all six rivals with tune up matches against Nevada-Las Vegas and Hawaii (they'll join the following year). There's also three games with nearby PAC foes Oregon, Arizona State (late of the WAC) and Oregon State.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Graduation losses aside, Edwards can't be too unhappy about having his center, quarterback and two receivers back. It's a nice place to start, anyway. The underrated BYU defense should do the job again this season and Wilson will toss the Cougars as far as he can—probably to the WAC title and into the Fiesta Bowl.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-superior, Rushing-good*

Defense: *Against passing-very good, Against rushing-good*

SAN DIEGO ST. (10-1)

The Aztecs move into the Western Athletic Conference this year and if they are to be successful, it will be with several new faces on offense.

Gone are quarterback Joe Davis, wide receivers Ronnie Smith and Dennis Pearson and star running back David (Deacon) Turner.

Sophomore Mark Halda or redshirt Chris Schaefer should battle for Davis' quarterback job. Halda was San Diego State's No. 2 signal-caller last season, completing 16 of 34 passes for 233 yards and two scores, before injuring a shoulder in the seventh game of the season. He required surgery and saw only limited action in spring drills.

Mark Halda is Aztec QB chief.

Schaefer is a former junior college All-America who completed 218 of 393 passes for 3,092 yards and 27 TDs at Merced College.

Smith and Pearson caught nearly half of all aerials last year so Rick Garretson, who is penciled in for one spot, will have to shoulder a bigger load than last year's 11 receptions. The Aztecs may go with junior college transfer Lonnie Moore, another good one from Merced at the other spot. Coach Claude Gilbert also will take a long look at Gary Snell, who led the nation with a 23.5 yard average in junior college. There's also Cory Hons, another juco transfer.

At running back, the Aztecs must replace Turner—the school's all-time single season rusher. Again, transfers are the key. Farrell Mack and Cal Ray Anderson, impressive elsewhere, will get a shot.

Ball-carrying returnees include Mike Hill, Charlie Crews and Phil DuBois.

Along the offensive line the team appears strong. Dave Katzenmeyer is a returning starter at left guard. Pete Inge is a two-year starter at right guard and one of the top offensive linemen on the West Coast, while Kevin Fidel started five games at right tackle. John Kmet saw considerable action at left tackle and both tight ends, Donnie Warren and Donnie Glenn are back. Warren had 17 receptions and Glenn nine.

San Diego State was a very powerful team offensively last year, scoring 349 points (31.7 per game average), with a 4.5 rush norm and 58 percent aerial accuracy.

Defensively, the picture is much brighter for Aztec followers. Ends Rickey Richardson, Kent Perkov and Phil Chambliss are all back. Richardson was a starter all season while Perkov and Chambliss were starters at one time or another during the season. Joining the returnees is JC All-America Jim Wilks from Pasadena City College's Junior Rose Bowl Champion team and nose tackles Rich Karno, Randy Martin and Jim Kentris. San Diego State's recruiting program relies heavily on plucking top notch juco players like these.

The Aztecs have had a linebacker oriented defense for years and 1978 will not be an exception. Ron Morehouse and James Lamar are returning starters with Lamar ticketed for a banner year. The big task is to replace four-year starter Whip Walton and steady Mike Douglass. Walton's backup man, Alan Sinclair should step right into Walton's shoes while JC All-America Scott Carter should fill Douglass' spot. The Aztec coaches feel Carter and Wilks were the two best junior college players in the nation last year.

More juco transfers and a number of redshirts provide the Aztecs with superior depth.

In the secondary, San Diego State should be very tough. Returning safties Steve Jorde and Mark Miller combine with cornerback Henry Williams to form an excellent nucleus. Also back is Terrell Ward, who started ahead of Miller before an injury forced him to the sidelines. There's also soph Johnny Moore and cornerback Saladin Martin on hand should the regulars falter.

Steve Duncan was perfect on PATs last year and booted five of eight field goals. He'll return in that role. Greg Roeszler is the regular punter.

Quite naturally, the San Diego State schedule is WAC loaded—six such games are planned—but there's also an ambitious matchup with Iowa State of the Big Eight and independent Miami. Fresno State, Pacific and Long Beach, some West Coast neighbors, close out the schedule.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Last year's San Diego State team might have really set this league on fire, but Gilbert must do with what he has. The real problem is in evaluating exactly what talent there is. So much is dependent on the success of those much-heralded juco transfers that a wide break between expectation and performance is a possibility. However, the Aztecs have been able to mesh standing talent with incoming talent in the past and the bet here is that they'll do it again. If so, then San Diego State's first year in the Western Athletic Conference could be one of success and accomplishment.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-good, Rushing-good.*

Defense: *Against passing-excellent, Against rushing-excellent.*

NEW MEXICO (5-7)

The return of 44 lettermen, an easier schedule, plus the acquisition of a rash of heralded freshmen, have coach Bill Mondt looking for a winning season this year. The Lobos almost made it in 1977, posting a 5-7 mark with three defeats coming by five points or less.

The Lobo offense returns eight regulars from a year ago, led by 220-pound fullback Mike Williams, the Western Athletic Conference's leading rusher the past two seasons. Williams needs only 89 yards to break the UNM career rushing record and 908 to smash the WAC career mark. If Williams can garner 1,153 yards (he had 1,096 last year and 1,240 the year before), he'll join the exclusive 4,000 yard club. UNM coaches feel that Williams, a unanimous All-WAC choice last year, could be even more effective if the Lobos had a sincere outside threat. To this aim, New Mexico has secured high school All-America tailback Mike Carter. Carter

was dubbed "the best prep running back in the nation" by Parade Magazine and also is a state 100 and 220 yard dash champion. The 9.4 sprinter will start alongside Williams in one of the conference's most dynamic combinations.

Three quarterbacks return, but the star of the show the last two years was Noel Mazzone, a fine option man who will become the school's all-time offensive leader this year. Mazzone rushed for 537 yards in '77 and added 1,085 via the air. He tossed a dozen touchdown passes. Mazzone underwent post-season shoulder surgery, however, and Mundt is holding his breath pending his rehabilitation.

Mundt's staff will pretty much have to mold newcomers into the starting offensive line spots around All-WAC center Tom Ryan and strong guard Ron Hegge. While Frank Giddens and Kevin Stark started at the tackles last year, neither is assured of a job this time around. One big reason is junior college transfer Shirley Ray, a hulking 6-5, 255 pounder. Says line coach Walt Klinker: I can tell how good a lineman is by the number of wrinkles in the back of his neck. Shirley's a great one. He's got three wrinkles."

The receiving corps has lost split end Preston Dennard, the Lobos' top pass-catcher last year, but returns tight end Chris Combs and split end Keigh Ellis. Combs was second on the team in receptions (15) and had an outstanding 18.9-yards per catch average. Ellis had 11 grabs and a 13.6-yard average.

Walt Arnold, who shared the tight end spot with Combs, brings his 22.3-yards per catch average back for another year, too, giving the Lobos great depth. Eddie Gill, a 250-pounder is an intriguing freshman find at tight end.

Four of the nine departed seniors were members of the Lobo defense that was shelled by Texas Tech (49), Colorado (42), Brigham Young (54) and Arizona State (45), but rallied to post creditable performances against Wichita State (17), Colorado State (14), New Mexico State (13), Texas El-Paso (17) and Arizona (15).

Academic All-America tackle Robert Rumbaugh, who was second on the team in tackles last fall, heads up a front wall that went from youthful, fuzzy-faced rookies to seasoned grizzlies by year's end. Both first and second unit front fours return, with Rumbaugh and Mike Dickson returning as first unit tackles and Daryl Bryson and Charlie Baker, the team's leading stopper, at the flanks. Baker was likened to All-America Robin Cole and Baker still has two years left.

Also, only two of the top six linebackers graduated with two of the three starters — Mike Forrest and Andy Wieczorek returning. Bob Shupryt was a part-time starter.

Two starters departed the secondary, but the returnees include one of the best in the country in scrappy Max Hudspeth, who leads three lives: punting and returning punts in addition to playing free safety. Jon Sutton gained valuable experience at cornerback in '77 and should be ready to step in as a starter while Mark Koskovich returns at rover and a host of sophs, led by Sharay Fields and Felix Kelson, should give UMN an adequate secondary.

Hudspeth was third in the nation in '77 in punt returns with a 13.2-yard average.

Placekicker Jim Haynes has departed, but walk-on Alan Moore should step right in.

The 1978 Lobo schedule is far easier than the murderous '77 sked, the likes of Arizona, Colorado and Arizona State being replaced by Las Vegas, Pacific and San Diego State. Also, half the dozen games are at home this year while just five were last season.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: If Carter can fill the bill at tailback and supply the Lobos with a legitimate outside threat, then New Mexico's ground game should be good enough to carry the entire offense. However, for the Lobos to be truly competitive, they must shore up a defense that was inconsistent at best. Mundt has been under the gun the last two years and it may be that he'll need a winning season to save his job, but it also just may be that he gets it.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-fair, Rushing-very good*

Defense: *Against passing-good, Against rushing-fair*

COLORADO ST. (9-2-1)

Colorado State coach Sark Arslanian is counting on a tough defense and his opponents' inability to keep up with his Jones boys to lead the Rams to their fourth straight winning season.

Seven starters return on defense and that should be the strength of the unit. Two and two is the story on the line as both ends are gone but both tackles return. Mike Bell and Dennis Freeman man the tackles, the former an All-Western Athletic Conference choice who copped league Lineman of the Year honors as well. The 6-5, 265-pound Bell finished second on the team with 103 tackles in 1977, including a team-leading 23 tackles for 88 yards lost. At 6-5, 260, Freeman is almost Bell's physical match, although he hasn't received league honors as of yet.

Five players are bettling for the end jobs. Dale Holcomb, Mike Goldfeder, Ted Boyd, Mike Carew and Greg Seiger all are capable. Carew had 22 tackles as a reserve last year while Holcomb and Goldfeder also saw action. Seiger is a transported linebacker and Boyd is by way of junior college where he earned substantial honors.

At linebacker, Kent Campbell is the lone returnee from last year's triumverate. Campbell had 26 tackles last year before being sidelined with an elbow injury. He could be shifted to middle linebacker after playing his first three years on the outside. He would have big shoes to fill. Last year, Mark Nichols played the middle, and led the team with 127 tackles. He, like Steve Krum and Kevin McLain before him, was an All-WAC choice.

On the outside, the candidates are plentiful for the other two spots. Eric Woody, Scott McGill, Brent Penfold and David Jurk will battle for the spots. McGill was bothered by injuries last year while Woody saw special teams duty, as did Penfold. Jurk is a JC product.

The secondary was the area hit most by opposing passers and by injuries last year but health has returned, more help has been brought in, and last year's weakness could be this year's strength.

Four starters return, including safeties Chris Parise and Ricky Harr and cornerbacks Dupree Branch and Nick Howell. In 1977, Harr and Howell both were felled by knee injuries, and defensive coordinator Scott Henington figures Harr's loss cost the team dearly. The Rams gave up 1,982 yards through the air and 21 touchdowns. Hopefully, that won't happen this year.

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To aid the cause, the Rams brought in a trio of highly regarded JC defensive backs. Donzell McDonald, Charles Williams and Harold Younger should lend support.

"The secondary remains the key to our strength," says Arslanian. "Harr and Howell return to add to this strength."

Only five regulars are back on offense but one is the top rusher of 1977, sophomore Larry Jones, Jones carried 185 times for 790 yards (4.3) and scored seven touchdowns. The second starter figures to be Larry's brother, Norris, a junior. He carried just 30 times last year, picking up 48 yards. The Rams are expecting much more from him this time around.

Gone is powerful fullback Ben Norman and the Rams don't seem to have a power runner to replace him. Offensive coordinator Charley Armey figures the Rams will rely strictly on speed, which both Joneses have plenty of. They've each been clocked in 4.5 or less for the 40. Alvin Lewis, who played defense last year but has switched to offense this spring, also could win a starting spot.

One of the fiercest battles is being waged at quarterback where six candidates are vying for the starting spot. Returnees Gary Crowton, Mitch Jaeger and Steve Driscoll are trying to hold off JCers Steve Fairchild, Keith Lee and Kevin Starkey. Fairchild led the nation's junior college passers and was the total offense leader as well.

The Bell boys, Mark R and Mark E., head the receiving corps. Mark R. Bell is the more prolific, snaring 40 balls for 797 yards last year, the second best receiving season in CSU history. Mark E. Bell caught six balls for 103 yards last year as a part-timer and seems ready for the starter's role.

Rebuilding is the task CSU faces on the offensive line with only center Wade Troxell returning for spring drills. Another starter, Bill Leer, still is recovering from a leg injury suffered last year, but will be ready by September to start at one guard. Starter Dave Lamb also will return from an injury (arm) while Bob Penaloza recovers from an illness.

Three starters were lost on the line so the Rams brought in some new people, notably tackles Tom Formica and Mitch Vitkovich. Both could provide immediate help.

Gone are both the kicker and punter from CSU's 1977 team. Mike Deutsch finished as one of the top punters in the nation with a 43.6-yard average while placement specialist Tom Drake led the team in scoring. Woody and Parise will try to fill the punting gap and Erling Halle will be in charge of the placements.

Colorado State's schedule is all WAC with locals added. Utah State, Air Force, Nevada-Las Vegas and Pacific are nearby opponents with West Virginia also making a trek west.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The Rams' offense was damaged by graduation losses and point production likely will drop off in '78. The defense will pick up some of the slack but Colorado State seems to lack the offensive leadership and punch necessary for a WAC title.

OUTLOOK

Offensive: *Passing-fair, Rushing-fair*
Defense: *Against passing-very good, Against rushing-good*

WYOMING (4-6-1)

This is a tale of two coaches.

A year ago Fred Akers left Wyoming and went to Texas where he changed the Longhorn offense from the wishbone to the veer and the defense from a five to a four man front. Texas won 11 of 12 games and wound up fourth in the final polls.

A year ago Bill Lewis left Arkansas and went to Wyoming where he changed the Cowboy offense from the wishbone to the veer and the defense from a five to a four man front. Wyoming won four of 11 games and wound up fourth in the WAC.

Some guys have all the luck.

Making matters worse for Lewis last year was the fact that he had 15 starters back from an 8-4 team that had won the conference the year before. This time, comparisons won't be as strict.

Fourteen regulars return, seven both on offense and defense. The strength of the offensive unit should be in the backfield, which is stocked with tested veterans. The quarterback slot has Marc Cousins and Don Clayton, both of whom have starting experience. Cousins was bothered by a foot injury last year but saw enough playing time to complete 53.8 percent of his aerials while Clayton was struggling along at 38 percent. Lewis plans to emphasize the aerial game, saying, "We plan to throw 20 or 25 times a game," so Cousins would appear to have the inside track.

Wyoming, of course, still primarily is a running team and things shouldn't change much this year. Myron Hardeman and Latraia Jones give the Pokes a terrific one-two ground punch that accounted for over 1,800 yards of real estate last season. Hardeman gained 1,165 yards of it, notched a 6.3 average, scored nine touchdowns and was named first team All-WAC and second team All-America. Jones had a not-too-shabby 648 yards rushing and a 4.8 yards-per carry average. Lewis also is high on Tony Caldwell, who showed flashes of brilliance (6.2 yards per carry average) in limited playing time.

The return of two veterans from 1976 who were forced to sit out last year because of injury, should bolster the receiving corps. John Arnold and Kenny Lett will join LaFran Simmons (switched from running back), Guy Frazier and a couple of juco transfers in what could be a team strength. Wyoming only completed 54 passes all of last year but Lewis expects to significantly better that figure this season.

The offensive line has only two regulars returning to the interior five, left tackle Vic Baginski and right guard Tom Dragt. Johnny Miller, who was injured last year, should nail down a tackle spot but Lewis has indicated that the players who perform their blocking skills the best will get the jobs, regardless of position. Hence, players previously listed at one position, could be playing another by the season's curtain-riser on Sept. 16.

Lewis counts his interior defensive line as the possible strength of the Cowboy team. Mike Webb and Pat Ogrin return at the tackles after starting much of last year and Greg Chytka is back at nose guard where he excelled last season. Nate Streator and Don Jessie are a pair of junior college transfers who should lend considerable depth.

Experience is lacking at end and linebacker Leroy Garner may make the grade at this new position. Besides Garner, there is Helmut Wise and JC transfer Ken Miller, but four regulars from a year ago have graduated.

Ken Fantetti will be working on his fourth letter at linebacker, having started since the beginning of his collegiate career, and is the heart of the defense. He'll be joined by Randy Hughley, Chuck Wilson, Carey Roe, Mike Newman and Bob Spaulding, the latter trio freshmen a year ago. Spaulding may also see some playing time on the offensive line.

Jerry Eure, Saunders Maontague and Jay Schaake are likely starters in the secondary, although competition should be keen with the influx of several JC hopefuls.

Dan Christopolos returns to do the placekicking with Mike Smith in charge of punting. Hardeman and Caldwell will handle the kick and punt returns.

The Wyoming schedule has some rough spots — at Texas and at LSU — but there's also two nice trips — to Hawaii and Las Vegas.

ACCU—LINE CONCLUSION: Wyoming's offense was inconsistent last year while the defense gave way against top-flight competition. It could be the same story again this year unless the Cowboys develop a passing attack to complement their ground game, and find able replacements at the defensive ends. If those pieces don't fit into the puzzle then Lewis could be in trouble.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-poor, Rushing-very good*
Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-fair*

UTAH (3-8)

Coach Wayne Howard's forces went 3-8 last season, but 15 freshmen saw heavy action against the likes of Oklahoma, Florida, Houston, Arizona

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State and Brigham Young and Howard figures such experience is going to start paying off in the won-lost column this year.

Nine defensive starters (including four of last's fresh crop) return along with seven offensive starters so the Utes have a foundation of sorts in this, Howard's second year in Salt Lake City.

Top offensive returnee is quarterback Randy Gomez who proved size was no obstacle as he passed his way into the Ute record book by breaking or tying seven school passing records. The 5-8 signal-caller hit on 150 of 315 passes for 2,015 yards to rank him 10th in the nation in passing and 13th in total offense.

Gomez's favorite target, Jack Steptoe (42 catches for 724 yards and eight TDs) has graduated, but Gomez still has such dependable receivers as Frank Henry (40 grabs last year), tight end Gordie Kurz (22 catches), and Corey Hansen (nine).

The ground corps is headed by tailback Tony Lindsay and redshirt fullback Mike Mosely, who broke his leg in the first game last season. Lindsay ran for 467 yards last year, averaging 4.0 yards per attempt. With Jeff Parker and Steve Peake (793 combined yards) gone, Mosely and frosh speedster Del Rodgers will be counted on to play a larger role in Ute ground fortunes.

There is some size up front, especially if redshirt tackle Dean Miraldi (6-6, 245) fills the bill. He'll try to break into a unit that includes guard Tom Krebs and tackles Rod Besler and Rich Ayres. Juco transfer Tim Davis (6-6, 245) is another who could see considerable action. In all, Howard has only to replace center Eric Heffner and guard Dave Kasper up front.

Utah's offense scored 206 points last year, with a good balance between passing and rushing. However, an inability to get going early—the Utes scored 12 points in the first quarter all year—placed a tremendous burden on the defense that was giving up 132 during the same stanza.

It was Utah's defense, in fact, that was the real eyesore, surrendering 379 points, including over 3,000 yards on the ground (5.4 average per opponents' rush).

"Our defense will be the key to our success this year," admits Howard. "The big thing on defense will be the addition of Jeff Lyall at defensive tackle. He is going to provide the outstanding leadership and experience that we need."

Lyall is a senior transfer from Long Beach who will join ends Guy Morrell and Dan Stewart, noseguard Mike Sobolewski and tackle Mike Kinsella. All told, Utah has its top six tacklers (statistically) returning this year. Heading that list is linebacker Mike Bailey, the leader in stops last year with 132. His partner is Richard Umphrey.

The secondary loses but one starter, Gerry Greenwell, but Jeff Griffin, Derek Daniels and Derek Washington all return. Charlie Reid is another import who could make a contribution.

Without a doubt, the strength of this year's Utah club is its kicking game. Punter Rick Partridge and placekicker Tom McNamara give the Utes the fanciest footwork in the conference.

Both Partridge and McNamara were named to the first-team All-WAC squad last season and both were rated in the top ten nationally. Partridge had 68 punts for a 44.0 yard per kick average to lead the WAC in punting and finish sixth nationally. McNamara hit 18 of 19 extra points and 16 of 23 field goals on the season. He was the most effective placekicker in the WAC and ranked 7th in the nation in field goal kicking.

Utah's schedule isn't as backbreaking as last year's with teams like Oklahoma, Arizona, Florida and Arizona State replaced by Idaho State, Iowa, Weber State and San Diego St.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The Utes should be able to put points on the board with some regularity but aid must come on defense if progress is to be made. With a more realistic schedule and the fact that many freshmen have paid their dues and benefited from the experience, Utah's football fortunes should be on the rise in Howard's second year.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-very good, Rushing fair.*
Defense: *Against passing-good, Against rushing-fair.*

UTEP (1-10)

When your defense gives up 469 points, your offense scores just 168, you lose your best player and you struggle through a 1-10 season, the next year you try something different, even if it's just getting back to basics.

"We'll work a lot on fundamentals since we already have the system installed," says Miner head coach Bill Michael. "We have some areas that will need special attention, but at least this year we can do that. We'll need to improve the defensive line and rebuild the offensive line."

With only 20 lettermen back (including one from 1976 who was redshirted last year), the chance for improvement seems dim.

Specifically, Michael is looking to replace All-Everything running back Robert Elliot, who was honored as All-WAC first team three years. Elliot leaves with 1,011 rushing yards in 200 attempts last year, a 5.0 average. That's approximately one-third of all UTEP mileage last season.

Among those back who will try and pick up the slack are Willie Neal and Homer Thompson from last year, Ray Holt, a previous letterman from '75 and '76, and walk-ons Larry Smith, Eddie Hawkins and Gordon Kirk. All look pale by comparison to Elliot. Neal carried the ball 54 times last year and picked up 156 yards, a 2.8 average. Thompson had 176 yards in 51 totes for a 3.4 norm. The others have no experience.

Heading the offensive returnees are quarterback Oscar Ramirez, receiver Bubba Garcia and center Leonard Hill.

Ramirez led the team in passing and total offense last year but his accuracy was not overwhelming. He connected on just 83 of 202 attempts (41 percent) and had 17 intercepted against 13 touchdowns.

Garcia was his favorite target, grabbing 53 balls for 826 yards and nine TDs enroute to being named first-team All-WAC.

Hill is the anchor for what could be an entirely new offensive line. Five regulars on the line are gone, leaving the way wide open for newcomers. The only transfers to join the club are both guards in twin brothers Rod and Rick Miller of Long Beach City College. Two lettermen are back on the line in tackles Rick Putnicki and Arthur Brackeen, plus a host of squadmen.

Michael is concerned about tight end where Mike Bowerman (two catches for 23 yards) is the only regular back. He'll be joined by sophs Frank Jarzombek and Derick Cloman.

UTEP's offense was largely impotent last year—except for Elliot—averaging just 2.8 yards per rush and hitting only 39 percent of its passes.

Defensively the Miners will be working on the inside people, where depth and injuries were a problem in 1977. The ends appear to be solid with the return of Elroy Stoglin and letterman Rodney Greene. John Singleton is a letterman tackle but another must be developed.

The linebacking corps is gone completely. Steve Miller has a letter, but there is little experience and even less depth.

The secondary has three lettermen back in Curtis Stevenson, Eddie Forkerway and Bobby Duncan.

Jerry Walker is back to do the punting. He was busy last year, performing his specialty 79 times for a 41.1-yard average. He figures to be just as active this season.

Steve Folkner will replace graduated Miguel Alvarez with the placements.

Besides all other WAC foes, UTEP has scheduled North Texas State, Air Force, New Mexico State, Arizona State, Hawaii and Nevada-Las Vegas. Perhaps one of those teams will offer the Miners a chance for a victory (Hawaii, maybe), but otherwise prospects are dim.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Don't blame Michael. He just doesn't have the personnel. If UTEP wins a game he's done a good job this year. The Miners are that sad.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-poor, Rushing-poor*
Defense: *Against passing-poor, Against rushing-poor*

Brown Can Pick Yale's Lock on Title

IVY LEAGUE

CONFERENCE COMPARISON

TEAM	PREDICTED FINISH	LETTERMEN		STARTERS RET.		STARTERS LOST	
		Returning	Lost	Offense	Defense	Offense	Defense
Brown	First	46	12	7	6	4	5
Yale	Second	33	21	4	6	7	5
Princeton	Third	37	14	9*	7	3*	4
Pennsylvania	Fourth	30	17	7	6	4	5
Harvard	Fifth	32	29	6	4	5	7
Dartmouth	Sixth	19	29	2	6	9	5
Columbia	Seventh	NA	14	7	6	4	5
Cornell	Eighth	27	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA-Not Available
*Totals do not add up to 11 due to part-time status of some starters

BROWN (7-2)

Brown football will be 100 years old this fall, and never has such an elderly patient looked so good. Credit "Doctor" John Anderson with the Bruins' excellent condition, for ever since Anderson came calling some half-dozen years ago, Brown football has been in the pink.

And it shouldn't be anything different this season.

Offensively, seven starters return, led by senior quarterback Mark Whipple, one of Brown's more amazing "patients." Whipple made a remarkable recovery from knee surgery last year and would up leading the Bruins in passing total offense. Whipple connected on 77 of 143 aerials, a .538 percentage, for 989 yards and four touchdowns. He also contributed 354 yards on the ground and scored six times.

Brown's top ball carrier of a year ago, Seth Morris, has graduated, but a pair of junior ground gainers, Marty Moran and JoJo Jamiel, have the promise of bigger and better things to come. Moran, operating out of the fullback slot, carried the ball 73 times for 337 yards, a 4.6 average, and banged his way into the endzone six times. Jamiel, the tailback, had 381 yards on just 65 totes, a sparkling 5.9-yard average, and scored three times.

Up front, All-Ivy League center Mike Knight anchors a big offensive line. Knight, a mere 6-3, 230-pounder, is joined by junior tackle John Sinnott (6-5, 265) and senior guard Bob Forster (6-4, 240). Returning tight end Scott Kidger stands 6-6 and weighs 235 and is a great target as well as being a fine blocker. Kidger caught only four balls last year as a sophomore, but much more is expected of him this year.

Mark Farnham, whose brother Bob once terrorized the League, is back after leading the loop in receiving. Franham had 25 receptions for 384 yards last year, a 15.4 average. Flanker Barry Blum, who started parttime last season, has the job for good this year. Blum, who will replace the graduated Charlie Watkins, had a half-dozen receptions in '77.

It is no secret to anyone that Brown wins with its defense, a unit that consistently ranks among the nation's finest. Last year was no exception as the Bruins were top ten again, giving up just 96 points all year, only seven in the final period. Brown foes averaged just 3.1 yards per rush and completed only 47 percent of their aerials.

But that outstanding unit has suffered severe talent losses. Five regulars are gone: tackles Kevin Rooney and Kevin Webb, linebacker Lou Cole, outside linebacker Jeff Van Ribbink, and end Attilio Cecchin. Cole was the leading tackler (statistically) while Rooney tied for the team leadership in tackles for losses.

However, Brown still has a good defensive nucleus in linebacker Neil Jacob (No. 2 statistically in tackles), middle guard Mike Lancaster (fourth in total tackles) and end Tom Thurow, the co-leader in sacks.

The defensive backfield remains intact with two outstanding players who probably are the team's most talented seniors. Safety Ron Brown, a pro prospect, is an all-honors candidate who had five thefts last year. Luke Gaffney, meanwhile, combines good size (6-3, 205) with fine instincts and speed. Both have two years experience as starters.

Like last year, Brown's title hopes may be decided in the year's opening contest. Last year the Bruins dropped a 10-9 curtain-riser to Yale and the Bulldogs went on to edge Brown for the Ivy title. Again these two Ivy powers face off in the opener, this time in Providence. Besides the other six Ivy teams, Brown will face Rhode Island and Holy Cross. Come 1980, Brown will upgrade its schedule considerably. Added to the slate in the 80's will be Penn State, Army, Ohio University and William & Mary.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Anderson has continually replaced graduated stars with equally able performers, proving that the system is as important as the personnel. The Bruins will have another top-flight Ivy League team and can't be counted out for the League title.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-very good, Rushing-very good.*
Defense: *Against passing-very good, against rushing-good.*

YALE (7-2)

Although his Elis won the Ivy League crown last season, coach Carm Cozza has cause for concern. He will be without 12 starters from that

championship outfit, including running back John Pagliaro, who was the hub of the offense.

Cozza ponders the future while reflecting on the past, "There is no way you can lose as outstanding a player as John and not miss him tremendously. He gained over 1,000 yards each of the last two years and was the focal point of our attack. Now we'll have to spread around the responsibility a bit more." But five other offensive players graduated with Pagliaro, so Cozza certainly does not have an easy job of maintaining the Elis number one ranking in conference scoring, rushing offense, and total offense.

Bob Rizzo, last year's quarterback, has graduated and the signal-calling will be handed over to Pat O'Brien, a reserve the past couple of seasons. The fact that he has yet to start a varsity game might come back to haunt Yale.

Joining Rizzo in the backfield will be several ball-carriers who have not established themselves thus far. With Pagliaro doing the majority of the work, the other running backs have had to take a backseat, but Mike Sullivan, Rick Angelone, Mick McIntyre, John Nitti, Mike Austin, and Doug Fincher will all be battling to see a lot of playing time.

The receiving corps provides more experience and ability. Seniors John Spagnola (first team All-Ivy) and Bob Krystyniak were one-two on the team in receptions, with junior Mike Cardwell, and sophs Curtis Grieve and Glenn Dawson offering fine relief. Speedy Ken Hill should see action at the wingback slot.

Graduation hit the offensive line pretty hard, with stalwarts Steve Carfora and Jim McDonnell having departed. The left side stays intact with Brian McNamara and Mark Noetzel back, leaving Pete Maples, Dan Skarzynski, Bob Regan, Lou Orlando, and Craig Corelli vying for the remaining three spots.

Field goal kicker Dave Schwartz will also handle the conversions since Bill Moore has graduated, and the punting chores will once again be handled by tailback Sullivan.

Like the offense, the Elis' defense ranked number one in many categories, but unlike the former, it will have the majority of starters back. Cozza says, "Defensively, I feel a little more confident with six starters returning, including Bill Crowley, our fine captain, at linebacker. Sophomores will help us basically on the line."

Crowley, an All-Ivy and All-ECAC choice, will start on the third strong side for the third straight year, and will be teamed with junior Tim Tumpane, who has beefed up to 210 pounds. Otha Porter will be the first man off the bench.

They'll be behind a defensive front that loses three starters. However, the two who'll be returning, left end Clint Streit (All-Ivy) and right tackle Bob Skoronski, are very good. Frank Paci will fight it out with sophomores Matt Crane and Mark Goodfriend for the left tackle berth, while Dan Goodfriend, Mark's older brother, and Jim Dwyer are the main hopes for right end. Middle guard will be shared by Ron Barlow and Kevin Czinger, both of whom stand 5-10, 210.

Three of the four deep backs return, with senior Kurt Nondorf, All-Ivy as a halfback two years ago but a disappointment at the corner in '77, being switched to his original position. Junior Rusty Meyer will fill that spot left open by Nondorf. Kevin Gardner returns as the monster back and Steve Skrovan is again the safety. Freshman captain Dave Novosel, should see ample playing time as a substitute.

Yale has a difficult opening assignment as it travels to Providence to battle an always-tough opponent, Brown. Considering the fact the Elis will be fielding an inexperienced squad, the curtain opener might prove to be a big setback to their Ivy League championship aspirations. Other conference games to be played away from New Haven are against Dartmouth, Penn and Harvard. Out of league contests will be at home versus Connecticut and Rutgers.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Cozza ranks among the nation's top ten in winning percentage, so you can be sure he'll get the most out of his players. But graduation has taken its toll on the Bulldogs, particularly on the offense, and there doesn't appear to be enough growl to capture another crown. Nevertheless, Cozza should lead his troops to another winning season.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-fair, Rushing-fair*
Defense: *Against Passing-good, against rushing-very good*

PRINCETON (3-6)

In most cases it is a head coach that greets new arrivals when practice resumes in summer, but in the case of the Princeton Tigers, it will be the players who'll greet arriving coach Frank Navarro. A successful job completed at Wabash College of Indiana, Navarro now tackles the more difficult assignment of improving Princeton's losing record.

Fortunately, Navarro will be handling 37 returning lettermen, including 17 of 22 starters which should ease the task. Princeton was basically a young squad in '77 and if it matures at a reasonable rate, the Tigers should be a formidable contingent.

Navarro will implement a new offense immediately, opting for the Veer and shelving the Power-I and Slot-I. In addition, Navarro promises his plan of attack will be unpredictable: "We will throw when the opposition permits us to. Some games we could throw the ball 30-35 times because the defense is set to stop our run. The next time out we might throw just 15 times because the defense is set to stop our passing attack."

The quarterback slot is still a question mark since Kirby Lockhart has graduated. Ken Barrett has the most experience of the top entires, with Steve Garza and Steve Reynolds in hot pursuit. Several sophs also will be getting their chances, and Mark Lockenmeyer appears the best of that group.

As is the case for the quarterback position, the running backs will come out of hard-fought summer practices. Gary Larson is the only returnee with a great deal of playing time. Frank Oliva, Marty Johnson, and Lew Leone are up from the frosh team and will be given long looks, along with Ken Foote, Chuck Alexander, Fred Rosenberg, and Frank Wise.

In the past the tight end has been used mainly as a blocking position, but Navarro hopes to open matters up with his new form of attack. Jeff Dalrymple and Ed Arlin should share those chores.

The strongest portion of the offense, without a doubt, is the interior line where all five starters and able-body subs return. The list includes Dwight Coleman, Frank Paolucci, Andy Stephens, Greg Bauman, and Dan Friel.

Placekicker Chris Howe and punter Bill Powers also are back so the all-important kicking game is not a worry.

Eight of the 11 defensive starters are around and there are no plans to switch from the 5-2-4 defensive alignment.

The interior three of the front wall are back, with Pete Funke at middle guard and Matt McGarth and Joe Lundie holding down the tackles. The two ends have graduated, but Paul Van Pelt and Rob Cuomo have shown great potential and could step in without being taken advantage of.

Linebackers Andy Hvidston and Bob Ehrlich are back for their final campaigns, and they bring more than enough experience and talent to their positions.

The secondary is another strong area, with six letter winners returning. Jerry Peacock is at one corner and Paul Converse, "Mr. Versatility" because he played strong safety free safety and cornerback last season, will probably be asked to use his talents at free safety. Mark Goldstrom, Bob Daly, Felix Hester and Dave Foote will fill the other vacant slots.

There is no spring practice in Ivy football which could set back the Tigers' hopes of smoothing out their offense. Their first two games are on the road with Cornell and Rutgers, a coupled of team they played tough in '77. If they can smooth out the rough spots of their attack in those contests, the Tigers might cause some trouble for the Ivy powers.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: With a bevy of players back, coach Navarro has inherited a team that should be together. His new offense can experience some early season problems, but the Tigers should improve over last year's mark and they

have the capability of upsetting a few unsuspecting teams.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-fair, Rushing-good*
Defense: *Against passing-good, Against rushing-good*

PENNSYLVANIA (5-4)

Pennsylvania's pounding ground attack, which wore down opponents with record-breaking statistics a year ago, returns with virtually all weapons intact. Second-team All-Ivy quarterback Tom Roland will hand off to All-Ivy fullback Dennis Grosvenor as both operate behind an experienced offensive front. The receivers, too, are game-tested.

"We're excited about our offense," says coach Harry Gamble, whose installation of the wishbone led to an unexpected third-place finish in the Ivy League and a 5-4 record. "Our primary goal of a year ago—installing a running game—has been accomplished. We'll be tinkering with the bone this year and opening-up some. We might even throw the ball." Against Princeton last year, Pennsylvania won without completing a pass.

Gamble feels his offense's increased versatility will cause problems for opponents and he's probably right. Pennsylvania gained a school-record 2,504 ground yards with its one-dimension attack a year ago, good for the No. 14 ranking in NCAA standings.

Grosvenor led the assault, rolling for 743 yards and a 4.0-yard average. Roland, who only completed 16 passes all year, nevertheless was quite productive on the ground, gaining 589 yards while posting a 5.2 average.

Behind Grosvenor are a bevy of talented runners, most with game experience.

The conservativeness of Pennsylvania's wishbone was frequently reflected by the use of a double tight end formation. The tight end was an important part of the offense in any case, and for his efforts there, Tim Trautman (six catches for 83 yards) was selected second-team All-Ivy. Lining up in the other half of the double tight end formation, when Gamble employs it, will be sophomore Jerry Smith.

Nelson Johnson, an excellent prospect at flanker, could benefit most if Gamble does indeed liberalize the offense. Johnson led the team with eight catches and 111 yards. Steve Routh and Tim Timlin are the backups.

Second-team All-Ivy guard Boris Radisic anchors the offensive line. Gamble considers him as good as any lineman he's had in his seven years at Penn.

Tom Sweeney started opposite Radisic before a late season injury sent him to the sidelines. Tom Kearney and Cyril Zaneski started every game between them at center. The only hole offensively, would seem to be at tackle, but Gamble feels veteran Barry Berenson, who had a starting job won before an early injury, and sophs Tom Katon, Pete Cusick and Brian O'Neill have the talent to help immediately.

All question marks surrounding Pennsylvania's outlook seem to be on the defensive side of the line. Pennsylvania is not bankrupt of starters (six return) or letterwinners, but the quality of the absentees cannot be overlooked.

Ends Gary Winemaster, Gary Rinaldi and Bob Baumgartner are back with Winemaster a strong candidate for All-Ivy honors. Jeff Ellis is the equal of Winemaster in the interior line. He and Kevin Pickell shared the starting assignment a year ago. Jim Molnar and Tom Mazich are experienced linebackers, having split time backing the line in the five-two. Three lettering-cornerbacks, Rich Manning, Kevin Weir and Dan Huber, also return.

What causes uncertainty on Gamble's normally optimistic mind is the departure of the best linebacker he ever had, Bob Nix, who set the all-time high in tackling total last year. He points to two tackles—Jose Serra and Steve Glasgow—who have graduated; each was a three-year starter. Mike Daly was an All-Ivy selection in the secondary with roverback Bob Reich a two-year standout, too.

Two-time All-Ivy punter Rich Serino has graduated and sophomore John Dwyer could easily inherit an unstable kicking game.

The Quakers open with a tough contest—Dartmouth in Hanover—and also must play Brown on the road. Yale and Harvard visit Franklin Field this year in other big Ivy contests.

"I will not be surprised to see us equal or surpass our Ivy standing of a year ago," states Gamble. "We will be in the race as a genuine contender, not as a surprise team."

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The Quakers have a legitimate shot in the always unpredictable, topsy-turvy Ivy League. The offense, even without passing, should be productive but just how far Penn goes will depend on how well the defense adjusts to the loss of several outstanding players. Penn looks to be just a notch away from winning it all.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-poor, Rushing-superior*
Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-good*

HARVARD (4-5)

After suffering his first losing season with the Crimson, Joe Restic stamped 1977 as a disappointment. A year ago, the outlook saw defense as a strength and offense as a problem area. Just the reverse came true. Previewing the '78 picture, Restic, if somewhat hesitantly, sees the offense being the bright spot and the defense the big question mark.

Only a lack of depth concerns Restic in the offensive realm. He is glad to have quarterback Larry Brown back to direct the Multiflex. Brown stepped in for the injured Tim Davenport the second week of the season, and although things were difficult at first, he displayed a lot of resiliency. Juniors Brian Buckley and Burke St. John are the backups.

Brown's favorite receiver, Jim Curry, is gone, as is Larry Hobdy. Nevertheless, Gary Confer, Rich Horner, and a pair of tight ends, Paul Sablock and Linus O'Donnell, should turn in an above-average job.

The fullback slot can cause some problems now that Chris Doherty has graduated, as Ralph Granger is the only one with experience at this position. Three returning halfbacks will see playing time, and they are Ralph Polillio, Wayne Moore, and Joel Boone. However, they might have to take a secondary role to Paul Conners, last year's freshman sensation. His development is certainly one of Harvard's main hopes.

A source of strength will be the offensive line. Experienced and talented returnees are center Joe Pellegrini, guard Mike Clark, and tackle Joe Kross. Those attempting to earn a starting role include Mac DeCamp, Mike Brown, Bob Locke, and Brian Silvey. The front wall is expected to give Brown and the other QBs sturdy pass protection.

Restic wishes he could be as optimistic about his defense. He needs to replace four down linemen, the safety, and the adjuster (the equivalent to a rover or monster back). Hopefully, for the Crimson, the new faces will assert themselves quickly.

The most promising candidates to fill the holes in the wall are Frank Kane, John Cosgrove, and Dan Binning. Tom McDevitt and Frank Gaudio saw action at middle guard, and one of them might be moved to add experience elsewhere.

Linebacker Craig Beling starts his final year at Cambridge and will be the heart of the defense. He'll be the one rallying the troops when matters start getting out of hand. Jim DeBello holds a slight advantage at the other linebacker spot.

The two corner back slots belong to Steve Potysman and Fred Cordova, supplying Restic with experience at that precarious position. Tom Masterson is the likely adjuster while John MacLeod will probably be tabbed as the safetyman.

Gary Bosnic returns as the placekicker, and he hopes to add to last year's stats of 3-5 field goals and 12-14 extra points. Punting looms a big problem as both booters—Jim Curry and Scott Coolidge—are gone.

Restic knows there are a lot of uncertainties and says, "We've got to work hard on defense. We don't use a ball control offense; we like to make the big play. So that means our

defense tends to be on the field a lot longer. They'll be under pressure." Which is something they can ill afford.

One small consolation for the Crimson is that they'll be facing the two Ivy favorites, Yale and Brown, late in the season. And at home. Also, Harvard will have the luxury of playing seven of its nine games at home, with Princeton and Penn being the only away assignments.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: With Brown having more experience under his belt, the Crimson offense should be one of the most feared scoring machines in the league. On the other hand, the defense is definitely hurting, leaving Restic in danger of a second straight sub-.500 season.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-very good, Rushing-good*

Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-poor*

DARTMOUTH (6-3)

The Big Green will have a host of new faces on the scene this year, including the man who'll be orchestrating the entire show — Joe M. Yukica. An assistant at Dartmouth in the early 1960's and most recently the coach at Boston College, Yukica succeeds Jake Crouthamel.

The latter left Yukica little to work with in the number of returning starters, as there's only five regulars coming back from the '77 squad that posted a 6-3 mark. The club had a legitimate chance of winning the Ivy crown but faltered in its last two games and dropped to third in the final standings. If it can accomplish a similar record in the upcoming season, Yukica's performance will have to be called successful.

The Green was devastated by graduation, losing 27 seniors. Nineteen lettermen will be returning but most of them filled secondary roles in year's gone by. If Yukica can miraculously replace five first-team All-Ivy players, Dartmouth might sign him to a life-long contract.

The defense held opponents to 10.6 points per game, good for 10th place in the final NCAA statistics. However, the heart and soul of the defensive line is gone in the person of Gregg Robinson, an All-East selection at tackle. All-Ivy end Dave Casper and end Don Rutishauser are gone too, leaving Ken Jansson as the sole returnee up front. A pair of seniors, Mike Francis and Dave Brown are penciled in for two positions, with the other spot completely up for grabs.

The linebacking crew figures to be the team's stronghold, as co-captain Joe Nastri leads a fine band of gifted tacklers. Tom Kuchar, a starter from '77, and Jeff Hickey, who saw a good deal of action last year, complete the menacing trio and junior Ed Fernandes is the leading candidate for the fourth spot.

The secondary has experience in Curtiss Rooks, Dave Stone, and Steve Bullock. However, they haven't played as a unit all that much and it will take time before they jell.

The offense had its share of problems, scoring just 141 points. To add to Yukica's woes in this area, he'll have only two starters and three other players with some starting experience from that bunch, leaving himself with a group of players unfamiliar with each other's moves and timing. Tight end Phil Olson and halfback-flanker Jim Eden are the two returning starters, and center Mike Kelley, quarterback Buddy Teevens and fullback Greg Jenkins are the three that saw some starting action.

Teevens hit on 66 percent of his tosses with five touchdowns, an impressive figure in the fact he threw 64 passes all year. The top two receivers are gone, so besides Olson, the co-captain will be throwing to some unproven commodities. The small but speedy John Wilson, Scott Brewster, and Eric Cutter will be among those competing for the receiving jobs.

The offensive line needs an overhauling, and some of the key personnel in the plans are Mark Miosky (who might move in from his tight end position), Nigel Key, Ken Loos, Tom Marek and Byron Boston. Only center Kelley appears to have a position secured, so things might get a little chaotic when the Big Green tries to move the ball.

Eden is a versatile player and will probably be teamed with fullback Greg Jenkins. Some more running help can be delivered by three promising sophomores — Dave Farley (4.3 average), Jeff Dufresne (5.5 average), and Jon Bassindale.

The season ended on a down note last year and it's important for the Green to rebound from those last two disappointing losses. It opens up at home with Penn and Yale in conference play, but even with the homefield advantage Dartmouth looks a little overmatched. Four of the last five league contests are on the road, and that can possibly mean a doomed initial year for Yukica.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: There are few coaches who can plug as many holes that Yukica has been presented with, and this club looks to be just too inexperienced and non-cohesive for it to make a serious run at the top.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-good; rushing-fair*

Defense: *Against passing-fair; against rush-fair*

COLUMBIA (2-7)

For the first time in a long while, the Lions are optimistic about a winning season. The reason for the upbeat mood is there appears to be excellent size on both the offensive and defensive lines, with many huge sophomores providing the bulk.

A total of 13 starters (seven on offense, six for the defense) are back, and with the promising sophs playing their first year of varsity ball, coach Bill Campbell should enjoy more victories than last season.

The most pressing problem that Campbell must find a solution to is the quarterback question. There are four candidates vying for the starting nod, Cal Moffie and Larry Brondi, a pair of backups from the '77 squad, and Bob Conroy and Glen Trivits, who received their seasoning on the freshman team. If a stickout should emerge here, Campbell's Lions should score a lot of points.

The pass-catching crew lacks depth, but the two frontline performers have talent. Artie Pulsinelli (All-Ivy) and Fred Sullivan have crafty moves and sure hands, and they should make things easier for the quarterback by getting free on most occasions. The tight end position will be divided between Eric Blattner and Kevin Cook.

Gerry Fitzpatrick is slated to start at one running back slot, and will probably be joined by Joe Ciulla. Sophomore hopefuls include Kevin Shorey and Mark Hanewich. The Lions run out of the veer and their running game is expected to make a respectable showing.

Tackle Joe Wagner (6'7", 270) represents some of the new-found size on the line. Vic Kaminski, John Kelly, and Mark Walsh are the other possible tackles. At the guard position, Harold Wick is a returnee, Rich Splaine showed promise as a freshman, and Wayne Palmer is solid.

Setting the ball in motion will be either Shawn Fitzgerald or Bill Bucholz, a couple of backup centers from last year.

Defensively, Kevin Gulhuly will be missed up front, but Parker Bagley (who'll move from end to tackle) and Brian O'Hagan will cement the wall. Dave Pinnock and Mario Biaggi are the ends.

The linebacking could be somewhat troublesome, with Dave Chapman the only experienced hitter. Paul O'Conner, Rich Quadri, and Pat Sages are the others that may fill the position.

Safety Mike Brown is the best of the secondary, with cornerback Rich Witherspoon also having a starting role to himself. The remaining corner will be contested by Ron Gregory, Henry Young, and Hal Robertson.

The kicking duties will be turned in by placekicker Mark Mazur and punter (and TE) Blattman. This is an unknown area as both players are taking first crack at booting the ball at this level.

Although there is great hope for the upcoming season, the Lions may need some time to develop and mature. The sophomore crop appears steady, but the individuals won't hit their peak until the late going.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The lack of a proven quarterback, and the lack of depth at running back and wide receivers may come into play if there are injuries. The defense has

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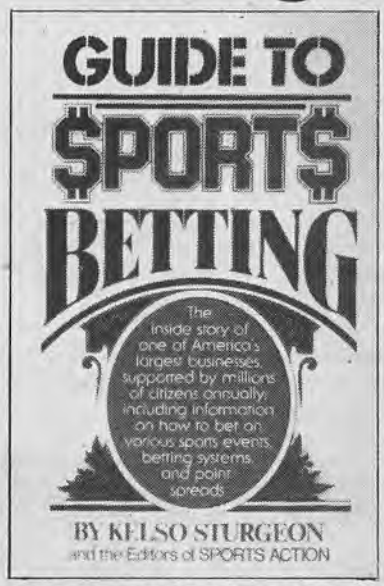
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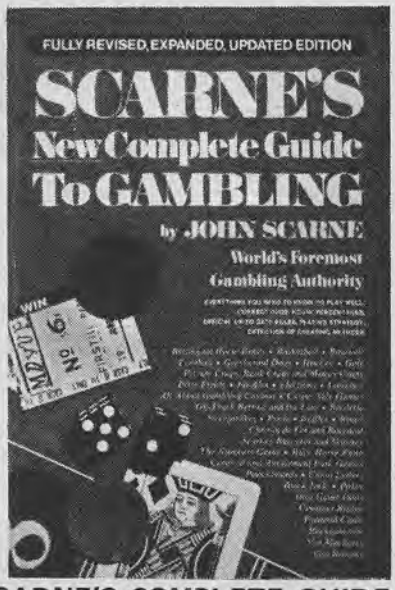

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gained speed and size and it is fairly experienced. Campbell and the Lions' faithful are anticipating a successful season, but they may have to wait another year.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-fair, Rushing-good*
Defense: *Against passing-good, Against rushing-fair*

CORNELL (1-8)

While Bob Blackman was the head coach at Dartmouth, the Big Green dominated the Ivy League. But Blackman then changed his place of residence for six years, manning the top position for Illinois. He came back to the Ivy circuit last season, taking over at Cornell. The question he must be asking himself is, why?

The Big Red must have been standing on stilts when they were given that nickname, for Cornell hasn't had a winning season since 1972. And even though Blackman possesses one of the more astute football minds, it's doubtful if a miracle-worker would take on the task of trying to transform Cornell into a winning squad.

Blackman will have 27 lettermen returning and the prospects aren't all that bright. The Big Red tallied only one win last season (a 20-7 verdict over Columbia) and if they can boost that sum up to three in '78, you would have to say they had a good year.

Some of the key performers on the offense are quarterbacks Mike Tanner and Jim Hofer. The passing attack accumulated a good amount of yardage in '77, but untimely interceptions killed scoring oppotunities. If mistakes can be kept to a minimum, the Big Red should enter the end zone on a more frequent basis.

Running back Ken Talton should handle most of the ball carrying duties, while tailback John Riley figures to see a good amount of action. Tight end Dave Rupertt is being counted on, as is offensive guard Mike Donaghue.

The defense permitted at least 28 points in four of the nine games so Blackman must straighten things out on that front. A pair of senior linebackers are expected to be his main attackers, as Dan Leonard (6-0, 200) and Dave Kintigh (6-1, 195) are two fine tacklers.

The best lineman is probably end Tim Ring (6-2, 225), while John Curran is the steadiest secondary man.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: After last year's dismal season, it's very unlikely a reversal of that form will occur. Blackman needs more time before the fans around the Ithaca, N.Y. vicinity can expect productive Saturday afternoons by the Big (everything is obviously inflated nowadays) Red.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-good, rushing-fair.*
Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-poor.*

South Bend, Indiana, April 26, 1978 . . . Dan Devine, Notre Dame football coach, was presented an original colored print of a painting depicting Notre Dame's 38 to 10 victory over Texas in the 1978 Cotton Bowl which earned the Fighting Irish the 1977 National Football Championship.
Vagas Ferguson of Richmond, Indiana, named outstanding Cotton Bowl offensive player, and Bob Golic of Willowick, Ohio, named outstanding Cotton Bowl defensive player, were also presented one of the original colored prints.
Nash J. Dowdle, President of Highland Galleries Dallas, presented the serigraph prints in the Athletic Convocation Center on the Notre Dame campus.
The limited edition serigraph print, "The Final Point of Victory," was created by Jim Jonson, internationally known sports artist .

Lions Look Fine, But Irish Are Devine

INDEPENDENTS

Teams arranged alphabetically.

AIR FORCE (2-8-1)

Rebuilding and evaluation are the two main tasks facing first-year coach Bill Parcells as he takes over the flight guidance of the Falcons in the wake of Ben Martin's retirement.

"One of the first priorities will be evaluating personnel and putting them in the right positions," said the former defensive coordinator under Steve Sloan at Texas Tech. "We'll also be teaching them fundamentals and our basic system."

Parcells will have 34 lettermen returning from the ruins of last year's disastrous 2-8-1 season, nine of them starters.

Heading the list of returnees is quarterback Dave Ziebart, the top yardage maker last fall, ranking nationally in both passing and total offense with 1,735 yards good for 10 touchdowns. Ziebart will be starting for the third straight season.

Steve Hoog, Ziebart's favorite receiver last year, returns after catching 29 balls for 474 yards (16.3) and five touchdowns. At tight end, senior Scott Jensen, a two-time letterman, saw some starting action last year, but the top two split ends are gone. However, Willie Jones, a reserve flanker last year, has been moved to split end.

The rushing game was shared by three ball-carriers with almost identical results last year (all gained between 250 and 260 yards) and one of them, tailback Shelby Ball, returns. The top two fullbacks are gone, leaving Steve Drewnowski with the job.

The major rebuilding job must be done up front where only center Gerry Smith returns. Reserve tackles Mac McCausland and Pat Meagher have started on occasion and likely will inherit regular roles this season. The guard spots probably will be filled by Mike Coddington and Larry Hoffman, both whom lettered last season.

Air Force's offense was atrocious last year, averaging just 2.9 yards per rush while completing only 46 percent of its aerials with 22 interceptions. The Falcons scored 114 points all year.

Defensively, the Falcons weren't much better, yielding 296 points. Air Force foes passed with 58 percent accuracy and ran at a 4.4 clip.

The defense will have to rally round linebacker Tom Foertsch, a starter the last two years who established a record 184 tackles last year. Some time this season Foertsch will become the all-time Falcon tackler.

Mark Cerise, who saw some starting duty last fall, will team with Foertsch.

Up front, the top three ends are gone but there is enough strength returning to come up with a good unit. Two returning starters at tackle are Ryan Williams and Bill Travnick, who had 87 and 105 tackles, respectively, in 1977. Travnick started at middle guard last season but was shifted to tackle during the spring. Another middle guard who was shifted was Tim Fyda, who is now at end. Mike Malkovich could see plenty of time at end, too, with Tom Morris and Kory Cornum offering reserve strength.

In the defensive backfield, two starters return in Tim Hoy and Robert Chandler, both safeties. Each has started the last two years. Another top returnee is Ron Pointer, a two-time letterman and part-time starter at cornerback. Dale Reed is another who should see plenty of action at one corner.

Terry Harris, who took over the placement chores last season as a freshman, returns to fill that role again this year.

Another of last year's freshmen, Scott Schafer, returns to do the punting.

Air Force has carded a typical Falcon schedule with opponents from all over the country. Army and Navy renew the service rivalry and such powers as Notre Dame, Georgia Tech and Colorado State also are on the bill.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: To be sure, Parcells has his work cut out for him. The Falcons weren't a very good team last year and there's not that much back with which to work. The offensive line, a key to an offense, must be rewoven, while the defense has little other than Foertsch working for it. Parcells may never get off the ground.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-good, Rushing-poor*
Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-fair*

ARMY (7-4)

Army took some giant strides toward a return to national prominence last year with its 7-4 finish and despite the loss of several key personnel from that edition, head coach Homer Smith is quite optimistic this year's team can continue the climb upward.

"We realize we have some big holes to fill," confesses Smith, who many say saved his job by finally beating Navy, "but we also have the confidence in our returning players to realize we have a good chance of improving upon last year's record."

While 16 lettermen who played key roles in last year's 7-4 record will depart, 30 lettermen will return for the '78 season. Included in that number are 13 starters, eight of those members of the defensive unit.

Among the missing will be Leamon Hall, who made a shambles of the Army record book in the areas of total offense and passing, and running back Greg King, who blossomed into a topflight rusher last year while gaining 961 yards on the ground. Other starters who received their second lieutenant bars included offensive linemen Curt Downs, Tony Dailey and Jim Hollingsworth, flanker George Dunaway, defensive end Mark Berry, DT Chuck D'Amico and linebacker Steve Miller.

Junior Earle Mulrane, who appeared briefly in only five games last year, is the heir apparent to Hall's quarterbacking job. Mulrane only threw the ball 20 times last year so statistics are virtually meaningless. "He needs to play," observes Smith, "which is exactly what we intend to let him do."

Finding someone to fill King's shoes likewise will be difficult, but in this case, Smith has more depth from which to choose. Jim Merriken, who ranked second in both rushing and receiving last year with 447 yards (4.5) and 35 receptions (10.0) respectively, figures to be quite dominant at one of the halfback berths. Jon Dwyer, the team's third leading rusher last fall, should be more than adequate at the other HB slot.

The receiving corps is a definite plus, if only for the return of All-America tight end Clennie Brundidge.

The 6-4, 220-pound co-captain, twice named to the United Press International second-team All-America squad, caught 51 passes for 842 yards last year while establishing Academy records for career receptions and yeards receiving on game, season and career levels.

Three other lettermen also return to starting receiver berths. Ward Whyte, who will handle the punting chores as well, will complement Brundidge at the second tight end spot. Bill Skoda and Mike Fahnestock will assume the wide slots.

The offensive line is in need of rebuilding. Looking at last year's starting front, only center Chuck Johnston and All-East tackle Joe Oliver are back, although Gene McIntyre did log considerable playing time and should be able to step in without any difficulty.

Leading candidates to plug line vacancies include Chuck Boucher, John Kisiel, Charlie Lane, Time Dolan, Ron Decker, Bill Duelge, Barron Klopfenstine and Cliff Triplett.

The Cadet defense could well be the heart of the Army team this season, thanks to the return of several outstanding performers. Chief among these is senior co-captain Chuck Schott, an All-America third team choice at defensive end by the Associated Press last year. Schott paced the Cadets with five fumble recoveries.

While two starters along the defensive front were excused from spring drills to participate in outdoor track — namely tackle Duane Fuller and middle guard George Mayes — there is still good talent available. Tiki Traylor returns at one tackle spot with Bob Groller at the other, while filling in at middle guard will be Doug Turrell.

The linebacking chorse will be handled by two veterans, John Hilliard and Kirk Thomas. In helping anchor the defense a year ago, this duo combined for 236 tackles, ranking 1-2 in that department. They also caused two fumbles and recovered two and had five interceptions.

The secondary lists a letterman at all four positions. If last year's final depth chart holds up, it will be Joe LeGasse and Doug Lawrey at the corners with Ed Clemons and Steve Smith at the safeties.

Smith must find a replacement for kicking specialist Mike Castelli who converted 26 of 32 PATs and four of seven field goal attempts.

Army played three nationally ranked teams last year and lost to all of them (Notre Dame, Pittsburgh and Colorado) in addition to dropping a decision to perennial eastern stalwart Boston College. The Cadets handled the rest of the schedule (as they were expected to) for a no-surprises 7-4 finish capped off with a win against Navy.

This year's schedule is not as rigid, with many games capable of going either way. Notre Dame and Colorado are off the sked (Pittsburgh and Boston College remain) but "softies" like Massachusetts, and VMI have been dropped in favor of teams like Washington State, Tennessee, Florida and Colgate. On balance, then, this year's schedule appears to be a little stiffer than last year's. Army, however, has seven games at home this year, travelling only to Tennessee, Florida and Pittsburgh. The Navy contest, of course, is in Philadelphia (neutral).

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The Black Knights of the Hudson will shift their emphasis from offense to defense this year as they rely more heavily on that latter unit this season. Hall's departure and a schedule with few loopholes has placed added pressure on a defense that will be under fire much more than last year. Smith thinks they may be up to the task, and he may be right, but the Cadets will have to knock off at least one "biggie" and not stumble against anyone else if they hope to match last year's 7-4 mark. It might all come down to the Navy game, but isn't that the way it should be?

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-good, Rushing-fair*
Defense: *Against passing-good, Against rushing-good*

BOSTON COLLEGE (6-5)

The Eagles did not exactly soar to great heights in '77 and they'll probably remain flying at the same altitude this season. New pilot Ed Chlebek is at the controls, taking over for Joe Yukica who is now at Dartmouth.

Although Chlebek inherits a strong nucleus of returning veterans, he will find it difficult to replace quarterback Ken Smith, whose 2,073 yards, 17 touchdowns, and 58 completion percentage accounted for the bulk of BC's offense.

Junior option-artist Jay Palazola had little success whenever he went to the airwaves in his appearances, being intercepted five times in just 31 attempts. However, he can run the ball effectively and the Eagles will become a run-oriented team.

The offensive line, a traditional Eagle strong point, returns intact so Palazola will be working behind five experienced and knowledgeable lettermen. Heading the list of linemen is John Schmeding, whose 6-5, 265 frame and blocking techniques makes him an All-America candidate at the guard position.

Fullback Dan Conway and swift halfbacks Anthony Brown and Mike Curry return, and they were the beneficiaries of the line's hard work last year. Conway totalled 613 yards, Curry 308, and Brown 192 in spot duty. They should carry the ball a great deal more now that pass-concious Smith has graduated.

Flanker Paul McCarty (27 receptions for 514 yards and 5 Tds) is back but the other wide receiver position needs someone to claim it.

The Eagles fielded an All-East linebacker in the person of Rich Scudellari last year, but he has finished his stay at the Chestnut Hill school. Junior Jeff Dziama is the leading figure to fill Scudellari's responsibilities, but it's doubtful he'll succeed completely.

The defensive line, which permitted about 170 yards per game on the ground last year, is anchored by Fred Smerlas, who brings the dimensions of 6-3, 265 onto the field of combat.

The secondary was the defensive bright spot, holding the opposition to less than 130 yards a contest and less than a 50 percent completion rating. This season the deep backs will be spearheaded by a couple of sophomores, Doug Alston and Mike Mayock.

Left-footed soccer style palcekicker Tim Moorman had a successful '77 (24-27 PAT's, 6-9 on FG's) and his foot will be on the scene once again. However, Jim Walton's 42.4 punting average has left the vicinity and that's an important hole to plug.

Chlebek will have 41 lettermen returning, as graduation claimed 20 veterans from last year's squad. Chlebek comes to BC from Eastern Michigan, where he was named Coach of the Year in the Mid-Atlantic Conference in '77.

The Eagles got off to a poor start last season, dropping three of their first four. A mid-year four-game winning streak straightened things out somewhat, but they still were defeated by Holy Cross in the finale.

Four consecutive home games, against Air Force, Texas A&M, Navy, and Pittsburgh will be a welcome relief for Chlebek. That is, if the Eagles perform well. If they don't win a couple of those contest, Chlebek can be on the hot-seat the entire season. Road games against Tulane, Temple, Villanova, Army, and Massachusetts seem reasonable enough, so the Eagles should fare okay in those encounters.

ACCU — LINE CONCLUSION: With Smith and his aerial circus gone, the Eagles will be moving more via the rushing route in comparison to the recent years. The quarterback situation remains clouded and the defense can use some bolstering. Chlebek will probably need a few breaks to raise the Eagles out of the mediocre level.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-poor; Rushing-good*
Defense: *Against passing-good; Against rushing-good*

COLGATE (10-1)

Last year, Colgate put together the greatest season in its 88 years of intercollegiate football as the Red Raiders captured their first 10 games before bowing in the season finale at Delaware. Enroute to the ost victories ever by a Red Raider team, Colgate led the nation in total offense with 486.1 yards per game while breaking

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21 school records and become the 17th team in NCAA history to average more than 200 yards rushing and passing per game in one season.

But this year should be less explosive offensively with only two starters returning, however the Red Raiders will be stronger defensively with eight regulars returning for the '78 campaign.

The entire backfield must be rebuilt, a job that will test the injenuity of District I Coach of the Year (by the American Football Coaches Association) Fred Dunlap and his staff.

Two of the best running backs in Colgate 's history, Pat Healy and Henry White have graduated, leaving only two lettermen returning for this season. Leading candidates at halfback are Bruce Malverty and Jim Comforti, both of whom have limited experience toting the football. Comforti carried 37 times last year; Malverty 33. These numbers seem pale against White and Healy 's combined totals of over 300 rushed and nearly 2,000 yards. Steve Hill is another who could win a starting berth, probably at fullback.

With the graduation of Bob Relph, who guided the Red Raiders to an 18-3 record during the past two seasons, the quarterback position should be a wide open scramble. The leading candidate is Alex Mancini, who tossed an encouraging 14 out of 23 in limited playing time last year.

Split end Dick Slenker and tight end Mike Getman are the leading receivers. Slenker caught 44 passes for 782 yards (17.7) and seven touchdowns while being named to the Associated Press All-East Honorable Mention list. Getman, who started several games while Casper Wells was injured, had 11 catches for 198 yards and three touchdowns.

Graduation has taken its toll on the offensive line with five lettermen gone, including four starters. The only regular returning is senior guard Dave Bachman, Players with some varsity experience who will compete for starting jobs are tackles Richard Rodd and Mike Twomey, guard Jim Miller and center Bruce Nardella. Missing will be such decorated stars as second team All-East center Mike Folwy, UPI All-East tackle Rich Doell and ECAC honoree John Gibney, a guard.

Colgate 's wing-T offense produced 380 points last year, a 5.6 rushing average and 58.7 percent completions but an almost completely new cast will be running through Dunlap 's paces this season.

Eight regulars return to the Red Raiders ' 4-4, multiple defense which figures to be the strength of this year 's team.

Some rebuilding will be required along the defensive front with two of the four starters gone. Returning is defensive tackle Ray Linn, an All-East candidate, and end Dan Mastrella. The coaching staff will experiment with the possibility of moving Mastrella to tackle with reserve tackle Joe Donnelly switching to end. Sophomore Jeff King will battle at tackle while there are a half-dozen contenders for the other end spot.

The linebackers should again be a solid part of the Red Raiders ' defense. Led by Honorable Mention All-America Doug Curtis, three of the four starters from last year are returning. The other starting returnees are outside linebackers Ken Ebeling and Gary DiFelice. The leading candidate for the vacated inside linebacker position is part-time starter Carl Padovano.

The entire secondary from a year ago returns, led by All-America hopeful Paul Lawler, who topped the nation in interceptions, nailing seven in just nine games. Other returning starters include Tom McGarrity and Robert Corwley, while Pat Gillard, Bob Nixon and Bill Dunlea all have barsity experience.

The kicking game likely will have Bob Nixon replacing Jerry Andrewlavage with the placements while Doug Curtis maintains his punting shores.

The Colgate schedule has a typical Eastern-Ivy League flavor again this year with the likes of Harvard, Cornell, Princeton, Rutgers and Holy Cross retaimed from last year. Army has been added to the sked and there 's the awaited rematch with last year 's lone conqueror, Delaware.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The Red Raiders have lost most of last year's scoring punch to graduation and have a rebuilding job on offense, particularly in the backfield where no regulars return. The defense will attempt to pick up the slack, but part of that unit's success last year can be attributed to the offense's monopolization of the football. It could be a different story this time.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-fair, Rushing-fair*
Defense: *Against passing-excellent, Against rushing-very good*

EAST CAROLINA (8-3)

East Carolina has produced 50 wins and but 26 losses over the last six years, ranking the Pirates as one of the nation's 15 winningest Division I teams over that period. There is very little reason to believe that this should change for the worse during the '78 season.

Fourteen starters return from 1977, eight on defense and six on offense. From an experience standpoint, this is the best situation Pat Dye and his staff have had in their five years with the Pirates.

"We are all looking forward to this season," says Dye. "I think the attitude, enthusiasm and other such surrounding factors are all very positive."

Offensively, three of the four leading ground gainers of 1977 return to bolster Dye's wishbone attack. Fullback Theodore Sutton led the way last year with 706 yards in 125 carries for a 5.6 average. He'll be joined by quarterback Leander Green who ran for 546 yards in his shared signal-caller's role. Also returning is All-America hopeful Eddie Hicks who gained 393 yards with a 5.8-yard average. Hicks' career rushing average is a staggering 6.9, the same figure that Green posted last year. With nearly 3,000 yards on the ground last year and a team average of 4.8 per attempt, obviously East Carolina knows how to rush the football. This is not really surprising when one learns that over the last five years East Carolina ranks ninth in rushing offense in the country, averaging 276.6 yards per game. This puts the Pirates ahead of each traditional powers as Notre Dame and USC. (Oklahoma is the leader).

"We should have the best running backs yet," gushed Dye.

Top candidates for the other running back spot in the wishbone include North Carolina transfer Doug Banks, super soph Anthony Collins and Sam Harrell.

The offensive line will the biggest ever under Dye, as size has never been an asset up front before. Tackle Mitchell Smith (6-3, 250) and guard Nelson Smith (6-1, 240) bulwark an interior five that also may include Mike Heywood, Mitchell Johnston, Matt Mulholland, Wayne Inman and James "Tootie" Robbins. Jeff Hagans is the man at center. He was a reserve last year.

With split end Terry Gallaher, who broke virtually every ECU receiving mark, and tight end Barry Johnson graduated, the Pirates will not have veterans to turn to this year in those vital blocking positions of the wishbone.

Billy Ray Washington will be moved from reserve tight end to split end to better utilize his 4.4 speed, while Joe Godette, who started most of last year at tackle, will move over one spot to tight end. Split end help will come from Vern Davenport and Mike Hawkins, the latter a running back who will be switched this year.

Defensively, only three changes will occur due to graduation. Both linebackers, All-America Harold Randolph and Harold Fort, along with free safety Steve Hale, are gone. Otherwise, one can look across a depth chart from last year and count the remainder of the starters as status quo.

Three defensive ends, "All" candidate Zack Valentine, John Morris and Fred Chavis have started over the past two years and proven strong.

Woodrow Stevenson, Wayne Poole and Noah Clark all have started during the past two seasons at defensive tackle. Clark, however, is being moved to nose guard this season in order to get all three of the big men in the game at the same time.

In the secondary, Gerald Hall, another "All" candidate, excellent free and strong safety, and punt return specialist, heads a list of three return-

ing starters. Cornerbacks Willie Holley and Charlie Carter are the other two.

A replacement must be found for graduated Steve Hale at free safety. Hall likely will play at free safety with Ruffin McNeil probably taking over at strong safety.

For the first time since the arrival of Dye, the linebacker position will not be projected as a major strength. Mike Brewington and Tommy Summer will move to starting roles, replacing the graduated Harold Randolph and Harold Fort.

The kicking game will find Rodney Allen punting again, after averaging 37.3 last year. Gerald Hall is back to return punts, an area in which he has received national recognition each of the past two seasons, but a placekicker must be found to replace the graduated Junior Creech. Bill Lamm is the top candidate.

East Carolina's schedule is similar to last year's with lots of local flavor. This is not to say that it is easy. Last year the Pirates defeated both North Carolina State and Duke on their home fields and this year's schedule again finds ECU on the road against the Wolfpack. Duke has been replaced by an even tougher foe, North Carolina.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Dye has done one of the better coaching jobs in his tenure at ECU, moving the school to top independent status. The Pirates again should be competitive with the biggies (UNC and NC State), as opponents will find it difficult stopping Dye's wishbone. Color . . . er, dye this year's edition of the Pirates tough again.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-poor, Rushing-excellent*

Defense: *Against passing-good, Against rushing-good*

FLORIDA STATE (10-2)

The three years before Bobby Bowden arrived at Florida State the Seminoles accumulated only four wins in 33 outings. With Bowden at the helm the past two seasons, the Seminoles were 15-8, including a convincing win over Texas Tech in the Tangerine Bowl.

Six offensive and six defensive starters have been lost, and 18 of a possible 46 lettermen have graduated. However, some outstanding players are back at key positions and the Seminoles should have another solid season.

Quarterbacks Jimmy Jordan and Wally Woodham finished up on a spectacular note last year, and if their play resembles their showings in the Tangerine Bowl, there'll be points galore in '78. The pair completed a total of 25-35 passes, good for 455 yards and four touchdowns.

Jordan has the inside track on the starting job, though, as Woodham missed all of spring practice because of a freak accident. In any event, the quarterbacking is the team's chief weapon and the two juniors should continue to pace the Seminoles.

A key loss, which should be taken literally, is that of Larry Key. The multi-purpose back is the all-time FSU rushing leader and his explosiveness and versatility, he also ran back kicks, will be missed. Sophomore Homes Johnson has looked excellent and is the probable replacement for Key. Junior fullback Mark Lyles owns the fullback slot for the second straight year.

Wide receiver Mike Shumann is gone, but the Seminoles still have capable pass-catchers on hand. Kurt Unglaub and Jackie Flowers, experienced juniors, are qutie dependable. Sophomore Lee Adams should take over the tight end spot, with Grady King slated to sub at all of the receiving slots.

Bowden must find a couple of replacements for the offensive line, but three starters have returned, including tackle Nat Henderson and center Gil Wesley.

The secondary has two starters returning with Ivory Joe Hunter, a talented senior, being one of them. A good bit of news came when deep

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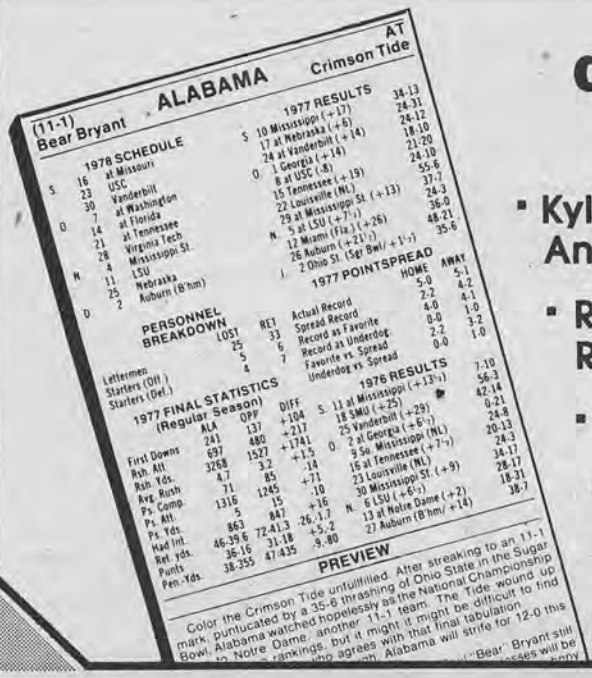
(11-1) Bear Bryant ALABAMA AT Crimson Tide

1978 SCHEDULE
S 16 at Missouri
23 USC
30 Vanderbilt
O 7 at Washington
14 at Florida
21 at Tennessee
28 Virginia Tech
N 4 Mississippi St.
11 LSU
D 25 Nebraska
2 Auburn (B'hm)

1977 RESULTS
S 10 Mississippi (+17) 34-13
17 at Nebraska (+6) 24-31
24 at Vanderbilt (+14) 24-12
O 1 Georgia (+14) 18-10
8 at USC (-8) 21-20
15 Tennessee (+19) 24-10
22 Louisville (NL) 55-6
29 at Mississippi St. (+13) 37-7
N 5 at LSU (+7½) 24-3
12 Miami (Fla.) (+21½) 36-0
26 Auburn (+2½ Bwl/+1½) 48-21
J 2 Ohio St. (Sug Bwl/+1½) 35-6

PERSONNEL BREAKDOWN

	LOST	RET
Lettermen	25	33
Starters (Off.)	5	6
Starters (Def.)	4	7

1977 POINTSPREAD

	HOME	AWAY
Actual Record	5-0	5-1
Spread Record	2-2	4-2
Record as Favorite	4-0	4-1
Record as Underdog	0-0	1-0
Favorite vs. Spread	2-2	3-2
Underdog vs. Spread	0-0	1-0

1977 FINAL STATISTICS (Regular Season)

	ALA	OPP	DIFF
First Downs	241	137	+104
Rsh. Att.	697	480	+217
Rsh. Yds.	3268	1527	+1741
Avg. Rush	4.7	3.2	+1.5
Ps. Comp.	71	85	-14
Ps. Att.	1316	1245	+71
Ps. Yds.	5	15	-10
Had Int.	863	847	+16
Ret. Yds.	46-39	72-41.3	26-1.7
Punts	36-16	31-18	+5.2
Pen.-Yds.	38-355	47-435	-9-80

1976 RESULTS
S 11 at Mississippi (+13½) 7-10
18 SMU (+25) 56-3
25 Vanderbilt (+6½) 42-14
O 2 at Georgia (+6½) 0-21
9 So. Mississippi (+7½) 24-8
16 at Tennessee (NL) 20-13
23 Louisville (NL) 24-3
30 Mississippi St. (+9) 34-17
N 6 LSU (+6½) 28-17
13 at Notre Dame (+2) 18-31
27 Auburn (B'hm/+14) 38-7

PREVIEW

Color the Crimson Tide unfulfilled. After streaking to an 11-1 mark, puntucated by a 35-6 thrashing of Ohio State in the Sugar Bowl, Alabama watched hopelessly as the National Championship to Notre Dame, another 11-1 team. The Tide wound up rankings, but it might be difficult to find who agrees with that final tabulation. Bear Bryant still Alabama will strife for 12-0 this

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A happy Pepper Rodgers and . . .

back Mike Kincaid was granted a fourth year of eligibility.

The defensive line is manned by strong personnel, including a couple of All-America possibilities in ends Willie Jones and Scott Warren. Tackle Walter Carter also returns and the coaches are high on sophomore middle guard Ron Simmons.

Placekicker David Cappelen and kickoff man Bill Capece are back, but a punter must be found.

The knock on State last year was that it played an easy schedule, but the Seminoles should have still been accorded their share of respect with resounding wins over arch-rivals Florida and Texas Tech.

This year they meet Pitts., Syracuse, Miami, Mississippi State, and Southern Miss. on the road, which forms a testing slate. Florida, Oklahoma State, and Houston will visit Tallahasse, along with Va. Tech, Navy and Cincinnati, and the Seminoles ought to be very difficult to beat on their home turf.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: With the strong-armed passers back, the Seminoles' offense is still potent. The defense may not be as good as last year, but if some of the sophs come through, FSU will field an above-average outfit.

Offense: *Passing-excellent, Rushing-good.*

Defense: *Against passing-good, Against rushing-good.*

GEORGIA TECH (6-5)

The Ramblin' Wreck essentially will have a veteran football team as far as starters go in 1978, but quality depth looks like it could be a problem. Coach Pepper Rodgers welcomed back 16 of 22 front-liners from a squad that went 6-5 last year.

The offense should be particularly effective as nine regulars return. Only tight end Bruce Yeager and guard Randy Pass have graduated.

The running game will be built around the talents of senior Eddie Lee Ivery, who set a single-season Tech rushing record with 900 yards (5.9 avg., eight touchdowns) in 1977. Ivery is regarded by most as a legitimate All-America candidate.

The running game will not be one-dimensional with the return of junior fullback Rodney Lee taking a considerable amount of heat off Ivery. Lee came on strong last year to finish with 780 yards on the ground and a 5.7-yard average, including seven touchdowns.

Quarterback, especially with the Yellow Jackets shifting from a pure wishbone attack to the "I" is a question mark. Junior Gary Hardie, the starter most of 1977, missed spring football to play baseball and while he was on the diamond sophomores Ted Peeples and Steve Henderson were given a long look. Hardie is more adept at running the options of the wishbone but the passing aspects of the "I" may be better suited with one of the sophs.

Among the receivers are holdovers Drew Hill and Bucky Shamburger and newcomers Matt Murray and Dan Mann. Donnie Sewell, a reserve last year, is the new tight end.

The offensive line, or "Wrecking Crew," returns nearly intact and should be even better with the experience it gained last year. Junior center Tom Daniel, boasting outstanding size (6-5, 230) for the position, spearheads the unit. Other stalwarts include a pair of husky tackles, Mike Taylor (6-7, 265) and Kent Hill (6-6,260).

Rodgers is hoping that experience, again, will be a plus factor defensively.

The four graduates were good ones, however, headlined by All-America linebacker Lucious Sanford. Other losses are end Freeman Colbert and Reggie Wilkes and middle guard Mike Cutting.

Senior tackle Mike Blanton (6-5, 250) and senior nose guard Roy Simmons (6-3, 275), moved from tackle, anchor the line.

Junior end Mackel Harris led the Yellow Jackets in tackles from his linebacking spot in 1977 with 107 and returns. He is an outstanding prospect for post-season laurels.

Linebackers include veterans Mike Helm and John Kelley.

The secondary, which began 1977 completely inexperienced, is just the opposite this time around. Returning regulars are safetymen Lawrence Lowe, who started every game as a freshman, and Don Bessillieu and cornerbacks Jeff Shank and Donald Patterson. Sophomore Ken Taylor should be heard from before too long.

Johnny Smith returns to do the placekicking with Ted Peeples again in charge of the punting chores.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The Yellow Jackets have always been a running team but if a passing attack (even in guise) can be mounted, the offense will take on even more spark and productivity. The defense, despite the loss of Sanford, also will be improved. It should be a good year for Georgia Tech, maybe even very good if all the pieces fit in.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-poor, Rushing-excellent*

Defense: *Against passing-very good, Against rushing-fair*

MEMPHIS STATE (6-5)

The loss of 12 starters from last year's 6-5 team has head coach Richard Williamson concerned about his ability to continue the winning tradition he's established at Memphis State the last three years.

Williamson, 20-13 with the Tigers, has a major headache on defense, where seven starters have graduated. The list is headed by All-South linebacker Keith Butler, the team's top tackler of a year ago. In all, six of last year's top seven tacklers are gone.

Besides Butler, Williamson must replace four-fifths of the line and half the secondary. Only tackle Wayne Weedon is back from last year's line starters. Lettermen available for the other spots include tackles Ben Howard and Jonah Daniel; ends Keith Clark and Keith Bowden, and nose guards Sam Hurst and Peter Scatamacchia. Some new faces could break in here.

Tommy Bateman is solid at one linebacker spot while Steve Lincoln, Mike Thomas and Derek Bell should vie for Butler's old position.

The secondary returns James Stewart and Judson Flint, with Fred Webb, Jarvis Greer and Tony Graves fighting for the other two spots.

Offensively, the picture is not nearly so gloomy. The entire backfield returns, and, in all, six regulars from '77 are back.

The unit will be paced by Lloyd Patterson, who holds virtually every quarterback record at MSU. Patterson, in two and a half seasons, already holds eight Tiger records including: Most yards passing in a season; most TD passes in a season; most career yards passing; most career completions; most total offensive plays; most total offensive yards in a career. Patterson's completion rate fell off somewhat last year to .431, but he still managed to fire nine TDs among his 1,336 yards.

One of Patterson's favorite targets, Ernest Gray, returns for his senior year, and like the diminutive quarterback, Gray holds a number of records. He has the highest yards per catch average in NCAA history (29.5 yards per catch last year.) He also leads the Tigers in most receiving yards in a season and year. While Gray led in average, Keith Wright led in catches (38), but, unfortunately for Williamson, he will not be back. Tight end Bill Austin also has graduated, leaving Russell Richards and Erskine Stockard, a pair of sophomores, to battle it out.

Last season's top three rushers, James King, Richard Locke and Ed-

die Hill, all return. King was the busiest, toting the pigskin 168 times for 626 yards and four touchdowns. Locke had 310 yards on 76 carries and one score while Hill had 286 on 73. Leo Cage chipped in with 259 yards and had the best average, 4.2 yards per carry.

The offensive front is not without its holes. In fact, only starting tackles David Crowell and Ricky Jenkins return. Jenkins, by the way, tips in at 300 pounds.

Key losses here include guards Bob Blackmon and Greg Voran and center Mike Zdancewicz. Darrell Torbet probably will assume one guard spot with Keith Orum, John Clifton, Greg Hardee, Vic Pennington, Fred Heesch and Brad Botkin all in contention for the other position.

Glen Snodgrass has the inside track for center, with Ricky Carman pushing him.

The kicking game, which was greatly improved last year, should be just as strong again. Placement specialist Rusty Bennett returns for his sophomore season after establishing an MSU record for field goals in a season (13) and in a game (4). His 50-yarder against Utah State ties him for the longest three-pointer in Tiger history.

Hugh Owens, who averaged 36.9 yards per punt last season, also returns, however, the Tigers will be searching for a punt returner to replace Keith Wright, who broke every record in that category during his four year stay at MSU.

Memphis State's schedule conforms with recent Tiger skeds. Three Southeastern Conference teams (Mississippi, Mississippi State and Vanderbilt) join Southwest Conference rivals Texas A&M and Houston along with the Missouri Valley's Wichita and five independents. The University of Cincinnati is new to the Tiger log among nonconference foes, as are perennial SWC powers Texas A&M and Houston.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Coach Williamson considers this year's schedule the hardest since he's been at Memphis State, a fact that doesn't augur well for Tiger football fortunes this fall. The defense, which surrendered 228 points last year (34 more than the offense scored) has been riddled by graduation and will be susceptible to both the run and the pass. This will shift much of the pressure to the offense, which will have to score with great frequency if the Tigers are to avoid their first losing season of the Williamson regime.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-Very good, Rushing-good.*
Defense: *Against passing-fair, against rushing-fair.*

MIAMI (FLA.) (3-8)

The Hurricanes are optimistic about their future fortunes. Second-year coach Lou Saban is methodically turning this club around, and with the finest recruiting year in Hurricane history neatly accomplished, Miami's brightest days may not be that far away.

Although Saban was only 3-8 in his initial season at the Coral Gables school, he sorted out those players who were interested in performing with enthusiasm and verve. With the influx of many talented freshmen, Saban will probably experience some difficult moments during the course of this season, but should establish a strong foundation for the next few years.

All eyes won't be on the first-year men, however, as there is a senior defensive tackle who'll make himself very noticeable whenever he's being touted as the best defensive player in Hurricane history, which is saying more than a mouthful considering Ted Hendricks, Rubin Carter, and Eddie Edwards have played for Miami. Smith will be joined by three other returning regular defenders while the remaining seven positions are still unsettled.

The secondary has a couple of solid hitters in Gene Coleman and Rick Valerio and Saban hopes they can compensate for the losses of John Turner and Bryan Ferguson. Letterman Fred Azrak and freshman David Jefferson will probably complete the deep four.

Both linebacker slots need to be filled and Mozel Axsom and Herb Jackson have the inside track on those vacated positions.

With Smith up front, the defensive wall will be the team's strongest area. Lester Williams, who was selected in '77 as the outstanding high school lineman in the U.S., is expected to start at middle guard. Johnny Daniels, Barry Gonzalez, and Pat Millican are the likely personnel to complete the outfit.

The offense returns seven starters including the strong running combination of Otis Anderson and Chris Hobbs. Anderson is Miami's all-time leading ground gainer and Hobbs started to bloom at the end of his freshman year.

George Mason has graduated which leaves the quarterbacking in the hands of Ken McMillan and Jody Meyers. Both are only sophomores so they still are a year or two away from the top of their game.

They'll be throwing to Steve Alvers, Pat Walker, and Jim Joiners, a trio of receivers who complement each other very well.

The offensive line, beest by injuries last year, will be rebuilt almost completely. McKinney Griffin and Charles Bloxsom are returning at the guards, but the three other spots have yet to be awarded. Tom Sedley and Larry Pfohl will be given first crack at a tackle and the center position, but

. . . a downcast Dick Williamson.

Saban won't be afraid to go with the new arrivals if they show more in the practices. The linemen will have to learn a new system as the Hurricanes will be changing from a pro-set to a veer attack.

Miami usually plays a difficult schedule and this year is no exception. Gone from last season's slate are Ohio State, Alabama, and Penn State, but Notre Dame, Colorado and Florida must be met on the road. The four home games are against the tough Florida State, San Diego State, Syracuse, and Utah State.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Saban must be confident that Hurricane fans will be patient, for the team still might lose more games than they win this year. However, the building blocks for a powerful squad are present, even if the results might not be immediately evident.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-fair, rushing-good*
Defense: *Against passing-fair, against rushing-good*

NAVY (5-6)

The bitter defeat to Army still on their minds, the Midshipmen head into the 1978 season with a potent passing attack but the need to restructure the secondary and find some replacements along the offensive line.

Coach George Welsh has 30 lettermen returning, including six starters on offense and four on defense. Unquestionably a strong point for the Middies will be the passing game built around the talents of quarterback Bob Leszczynski who last year passed for 1,509 yards on 110-223 accuracy, the second best set of figures ever at the Naval Academy.

Leszczynski has four excellent receivers in wide men Phil McConkey and Sandy Jones and tight ends Carl Hendershot and Curt Gainer. McConkey, a slight 165-pounder, was the team leader in receptions last year with 34 and was third in the country in punt returns with a 13.5 mark. Navy brass is boosting the speedburner for national honors. Jones, another who can turn on the afterburners, averaged better than 19 yards per each of his 13 catches last year. Another letterman at wide receiver was Bob Wilson, but he was moved to the defensive secondary in a spring experiment that apparently has been deemed successful.

The running game will be built around rugged fullback Larry Klawinski, a two-year starter; his understudy Dave Walker, and a pair of sophomores who are prospects to take over from record-setting Joe Gattuso at tailback — Steve Callanan and Mike Sherlock. Klawinski is the workhorse, getting the tough inside yardage last year at a 3.6 clip. He totaled 424 yards, second on the team to the departed Gattuso. Callanan showed he could do the job last year by rushing for 242 yards in only 47 carries, a fine 5.1-yard average. And he'll have to do the job since the man he's replacing (Gattuso) romped for 1,292 yards last year in 266 carries (4.9). Klawinski, by the way, had to miss spring drills so he could bang some bodies playing lacrosse.

Welsh will develop the offensive line around tackle Rick Bott, a steady performer, and Steve Kremer, a guard who also can play center.

Bob Golic bulwarks Irish defense.

Jerome Barker could step in at one of the two vacant tackle spots with letterman Kurt Schafer also a possibility. Transfer Frank McCallister and sophomores Mike Dolan and Rich Welch along with John Taylor are the other top candidates. Hendershot and Gainer both lettered at tight end and ex-quarterback Randy Farley is another good prospect.

Defensively, graduation took a very heavy toll, especially at linebacker and in the secondary. But the Middies do have some experience along the front line and that area will have to buttress the entire unit; applying pressure during situations and sealing off the run, as well.

Mark Stephens, Charlie Thornton and Bart Nixon all lettered at defensive end last year while John Merrill is back as a starter at tackle with classmate Reggie Trass most likely to join him.

Welsh has three lettermen on hand at middle guard — A.B. Miller, Tommy Thompson and Charlie Meyers, the latter the starter most of last year. Phil Hedrick, a transfer, and Steve Chambers are available in the way of depth but a position change cannot be ruled out, either.

The linebacking corps loses Bob DeStafney, its leading (statistically) stopper last year and his mate Otto Bulich. In their place will be senior co-captain Nick Mygas, two-year letterman Tom Paulk and promising sophomore Mike Kronzer.

The revamped secondary will start with two-year veteran Gregg Milo at rover and lettermen Joel Ross and Chris Klein.

The kicking game returns Bob Tata, the school record-holder for most points scored by a kicker. Tata connected on nine-of-14 field goals and all 26 extra point tries last year.

Art Ohanian, the regular punter the last two years, also returns. Ohanian averaged 36.0 yards per boot last year.

Navy will be on the road the opening four weeks of the season this year, facing Virginia, Connecticut, Boston College and Air Force. Then the Middies return home for four straight, the first two against Duke and William and Mary, the second duo against mighty Pittsburgh and National Champion Notre Dame. Then it's on the road against Syracuse and bowl victor Florida State before returning for the annual war against Army in Philadelphia. It is a tough schedule because the Middies will have to win consistently on the road if they want to have any chance for a .500 record.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Navy will be able to put points on the board thanks to a long distance passing game, but a defense that has lost much to graduation and a schedule that is fraught with pitfalls will eventually sink the Middies.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-very good, Rushing-fair*

Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-fair*

NOTRE DAME

"I think about who we have returning rather than be overly concerned with who is gone," states Dan Devine and his National Championship team must find replacements for the Walter Camp Player of the Year, the Lombardi Trophy winner, a second All-America defensive end, a duo of All-America cornerbacks, an All-America offensive guard and the school's kick-scoring record holder.

Gone are Ken MacAfee, Ross Browner, Willie Fry, Luther Bradley, Ted Burgmeier, Ernie Hughes and Dave Reeve. "Sure it's difficult to lose so many quality players." admits Devine, "but it's a natural occurrence in college football. You can't worry about graduation losses. You just have to go about trying to find adequate replacements."

Such losses would be catastrophic most other places, but this is Notre Dame.

Eight starters from the record-setting offensive unit of 1977 will return, led by Joe Montana, the quarterback. Montana came on with a flurry against Purdue in the season's third contest and paced the Irish offense which scored a Notre Dame record 382 points and compiled an average of just under 500 yards total offense per game under his guidance. Joe's personal stats — sans the Cotton Bowl — were 1,604 aerial yards on 52.4 percent accuracy and 11 touchdowns.

Montana will enjoy the luxury of having all of his starting backfield mates returning, and in particular, hard-driving Jerome Heavens and shifty Vagas Ferguson. Heavens, who went over the 1,000-yard plateau in the Cotton Bowl, scoring three times and copping the offensive MVP award. He averaged 6.2-yards per carry during the regular season last year.

The receiving corps returns wingback David Waymer and split end Kris Haines. Waymer had 10 grabs and a 16.4-yard average while Haines caught 28 balls, his 21.0-yard average falling just short of the Notre Dame record for yards-per-reception. The race for tight end, the stomping grounds of MacAfee for the past three years, is wide open. Kevin Hart, son of Heisman winner Leon Hart, and Dennis Grindinger are the top candidates to replace Big Mac.

With the right side of the offensive line gone due to graduation, the rebuilding and juggling of personnel was a pressing need for Devine. "If you count Ken MacAfee, we lost 50% of our power up front." To that end, Devine has made some changes. Starter Tim Foley will move from the left side to the right tackle position and Rob Martinovich will take over at left tackle. Jim Hautman will be given a shot at right guard after serving behind All-America Dave Juffman at center last fall. Hautman will be backed up by Huffman's brother, Tim,

who moves over from a reserve tackle role. Ted Horansky is back to fill the left guard position and John Leon will be behind him.

On the other side of the ball, Dan Devine must feel like a general who goes to battle unprotected on the flanks as graduation has claimed both defensive ends, one outside linebacker, and the cornerbacks from the starting unit.

Defensive captain and two-sport All-America Bob Golic will be the hub of the defense at middle guard/linebacker. Golic, a second-team All-America on the gridiron and first-team All-America on the wrestling mats for the past two years, recorded an ND record 146 tackles last fall. Steve Heimkreiter, who led the team in tackles two years ago, will return at his left linebacker position. Mike Whitington, the defensive MVP in last year's Blue-Gold Game, is a capable backup. Leroy Leopold will be the other outside linebacker. Leopold already has returned three interceptions for touchdowns in his two seasons, equalling the Notre Dame record.

The middle of the line can count only on the return of Mike Calhoun who came up with 13 tackles behind the line of scrimmage last year and should improve that figure as the mainstay of the front four. Returnee Jeff Weston/returns, but if his knee still isn't 100 percent then either Jay Case or Bob Gagnon will start at tackle. Scott Zettek and Hardy Rayam are the front-runners for the defensive ends positions vacated by Browner and Fry.

Academic All-America JOe Restic and three-year starter Jim Browner, another All-America candidate, return in the defensive backfield at free and strong safety, respectively. Restic, who paced the Irish with six interceptions, also does the punting. Randy Harrison will back up Restic in a quest for his fifth monogram. Harrison was a two-year starter before being sidelined with a fractured forearm two years ago in the second game of the season. Harrison logged enough playing time to win a letter that year and will use the added year of eligibility to become the first five-time letter winner in Notre Dame history. Two seniors, Tom Flynn and Jim Morse, and a pair of sophomores, Dick Boushka and Rick Buehner will compete for the top spots at cornerback.

The kicking game suffered a severe blow with the graduation of four-year letterman Dave Reeve. Joe Unis and Charles Male will battle for the job.

Notre Dame's schedule, often maligned as being "soft," is anything but that this year. The Fighting Irish host the likes of Michigan State and USC. The visit of the Wolverines to South Bend on Sept. 23 is a particularly interesting game.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Notre Dame's chances for a repeat of last year's National Championship appear dim in view of the Irish's upgraded schedule and defensive losses. Certainly, ND will put plenty of points on the board and probably make another bowl appearance. However, more than one loss is a disappointing season in South Bend, especially to alumni who have learned to expect excellence, if not perfection. Of course, the Irish can't be ruled out for another title, but the task appears tougher this year than it was last.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-excellent, Rushing-excellent*

Defense: *Against passing-very good, Against rushing-very good*

PENN STATE (11-1)

It's not often that Joe Paterno admits to any optimism concerning his Nittany Lions so when the Penn State mentor points out, "I think we have the makings of an outstanding squad," look out!

Paterno, whose dozen previous seasons at Penn State have resulted in a marvelous 112-24-1 mark, has 12 starters back from the team that rolled to an 11-1 mark and Fiesta Bowl victory over Arizona State last year. Only a narrow 24-20 setback by Kentucky prohibited the Lions from claiming the national title. As it was, PSU climbed to fourth in the final polls.

Chuck Fusina, who has broken nearly all of Penn State's passing records since taking over the regular quarterback job early in the 1976 season, will lead the Lions in 1978.

Fusina, a 6-1, 197-pound senior, already has broken or tied nine Penn State passing records and should be a top candidate for All-America honors.

Fusina is one of seven returning starters on offense.

Penn State will have a fine ground game to complement Fusina's aerial expertise. Matt Suhey led last year's team with 638 yards rushing as a sophomore while sharing the fullback job with Bob Torrey. Torrey is no slouch, either, rushing for 456 yards in only 78 attempts, an average of 5.9 yards per tote. Both men return this year and, should Paterno wish to do so, both could start in a big-back offense.

Jimmy Cefalo has graduated, but Fusina still should have several good targets. Chief among them will be split end Scott Fitzkee, who has also handled the punting chores the past two years. Fitzkee averaged 20.7 yards per catch last year, grabbing 18 passes for 372 yards. With Cefalo gone, Fitzkee will be the major deep threat for the Lions.

Other experienced receivers are Bob Bassett (12 catches for 191 yards) and Tom Donovan, who missed all of last season after suffering a leg injury in preseason practice. Donovan had 13 catches for 258 yards in 1976.

The offensive line also should be blue-ribbon with four of last year's top five regulars returning. Heading the unit will be Keith Dorney, a 6-6, 265-pound All-America tackle. Dorney will be joined by center Chuck Correal, guards Eric Cunningham and Marty Sierocinski and tackles Paul Renaud and Irv Pankey. There could be a position change or two but Paterno, like most coaches, has a penchant for depth and probably will leave well enough alone.

Besides Cefalo, tailback Steve Geise, guard John Dunn and tight end Mickey Shuler are the offensive departees who started last year.

Five starters and 10 second unit players return to the Penn State defense, a defense that always has been noted for its stinginess.

Among the returnees are four players who started as sophomores last year—tackles Bruce Clark and Matt Millen, linebacker Rick Donaldson and halfback Mike Guman. The other returning starter is Joe Lally, who moved into the regular lineup at end as a junior last year.

Among the other defensive returnees are four players who have started at least one game in the last two years——safety Pete Harris, defensive tackle Tony Petruccio, end Fred Ragucci and linebacker Paul Suhey. Middle guard Lance Mehl and linebacker Doug Hostetler also saw considerable playing time last year.

Graduation losses include ends Bill Banks and Joe Diange, All-America middle guard Randy Sidler, linebackers Tom DePaso and Ron Hostetler and defensive back Neil Hutton and Gary Petercuskie.

The kicking game again should be strong with Matt Bahr handling the kickoff and placement duties after taking the spring and summer off to play professional soccer for the Colorado Caribou of the North American Soccer League.

Bahr, who set a school record for points by kicking (81) last year, has completed his soccer eligibility and should benefit from being able to concentrate on football.

Paterno's main concern for the 1978 season is the schedule. Among the hurdles for the Lions are road games with Ohio State and Kentucky early in the season and home games in November with three teams that won bowl games last year—Maryland, North Carolina State and Pittsburgh.

Says Paterno: "We have a very, very difficult schedule; but it will give us an opportunity to show what kind of football team we have."

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The kind of football team Paterno has is an excellent one. Don't worry about the defense. The year the Lions went 7-5 (1976) it was an impotent offense that did them in. The offense this time around is very productive and the defense. . . .well, you know the way Penn State plays defense. This is a team that will appear in a major bowl and will vie for national recognition.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-excellent, Rushing-excellent*

Defense: *Against passing-very good, Against rushing-excellent*

PITTSBURGH (9-2-1)

When you have a lot, eventually you lose a lot. So it is with Pittsburgh. The Panthers lost an impressive array of talent via the graduation process and now coach Jackie Sherrill must try to perpetuate the winning tradition just recently revitalized at Pitt.

But Sherrill may be up to the task. When he took over for Johnny Majors in 1977, few thought the Panthers would make a sizable ripple in the NCAA waters without Tony Dorsett and many of his mates. But Sherrill put together an outstanding club, one which came within a few inches and a fractured wrist of repeating as National Champions. The '77 edition of the Panthers lost only two games, one when quarterback Matt Cavanaugh couldn't finish the second half against Notre Dame, leaving with that wrist injury, and the other when a two-point conversion attempt fell inches short in the snow against Penn State.

But the task facing Sherrill this year is even more difficult than the one in '77.

First, the Panthers have to overcome the loss of Cavanaugh, their All-America signal-caller who tossed for 1,844 yards on 58.8 percent accuracy. Cavanaugh was intercepted only six times and hurled 15 touchdown passes. Rick Trocano is Cavanaugh's heir apparent.

"People don't really realize the good job Rick Trocano did for us as a freshman last year," pointed out Sherrill. "For instance, Ricky started three games for us, won them all and led the team to 28, 76, and 45 points in those three games. I think that's pretty impressive."

Finding people to block for Trocano is another concern. All-America center Tom Brzoza is one of only four departures from the interior five, the lone returnee being tackle Matt Carroll. Walt Brown will take over for Brzoza with Mark May, Kurt Brechbill, Jeff Matthews, Ed Gallagher and John Richardson filling the other vacancies. Scott Hartman also is expected to play a big part, probably at guard.

Elliot Walker leaves a 1,000-yard rushing void in the backfield but there are other good ball-carriers available. Fred Jacobs, who started last year and rushed for 672 yards, returns at one running back spot. No less than five lettermen will vie for Walker's job. They are Larry Sims, Rooster Jones, Jo Jo Heath, Artrell Hawkins and Steve Harris.

Gordon "Too Much" Jones returns to split end after winning All-America honors last year. Jones was Cavanaugh's favorite target, snaring 45 aerials for 793 yards and nine touchdowns, last year. Trocano, too, will be looking for the elusive speedster.

Joining Jones will be tight end Steve Gaustad, the Panthers's No. 2 man last year. Gaustad had 31 receptions in 1977.

Lettermen Willie Collier, Ralph Still, and a crew of newcomers will battle for the flanker job.

Seven starters return defensively in what could turn out to be a very good unit. The Panthers are set at defensive end with the return of All-America Hugh Green and steady Dave DiCiccio. Green was a top freshman last year and was second on the team in tackles. He also was tops in sacks (12).

All-America Randy Holloway, a four-year letterman, has graduated along with Gary Silvestri on the other side. But the Panthers return five of the top seven people overall. Jerry Boyarsky stepped in at middle guard when an ankle injury slowed Dave Logan. Logan, a two-year letterman, also is back.

Bob Gruber started several games at tackle last year as did Bill Neill.

Both linebackers return, headed by Al Chelsey, who led the team in tackles last year with 134. Teamed with Jeff Pelusi and lettermen Desmond Robinson and Mark Reichard, the Panthers appear to have fine depth.

The secondary was hit hardest of all by graduation, losing All-America Bob Jury along with LeRoy Felder and J.C. Wilson. Jury had eight thefts last year to pace the club.

Jeff Delaney, with three letters already won, is the lone returnee to the secondary. Delaney is third in career interceptions and with a banner year could threaten Jury. Mike Balzer will assume Jury's spot while cornerbacks Lynn Thomas, Willie Marsh and Scott McKeel will do battle for the other two starting berths.

Mark Schubert returns to handle the placements after connecting on eight-of-10 field goals and 41-of-43 extra points.

Joe Gasparovic will do the punting. He averaged 40.9-yards per boot last year.

Pittsburgh plays four bowl teams this year, Notre Dame, Penn State, North Carolina and Florida State. The Panthers also visit Syracuse, Boston College, Tulane and Navy while Temple, West Virginia and Army come in to Pitt Stadium.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Sherrill continues to paint an optimistic picture despite mammoth graduation losses. The Panthers have reached the point where their recruiting program covers up for most — but not all — graduation deficiencies. The Panthers should be able to get by against most but the talent gap could be accentuated against the likes of Notre Dame and Penn State.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-good, Rushing-good*

Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-very good*

RICHMOND (3-8)

It will be a largely experienced team that coach Jim Tait sends out on the field for the Spiders' season opener against Southern Mississippi. In all, 41 lettermen, including 17 starters return for the Red & Blue.

However, Tait is very much concerned with one graduation loss — signal caller Dave Taylor. "We'll be working particularly hard toward solving the quarterback problem," admits Tait. "With Dave gone, it looks like our top two candidates will be Greg Gregory and James Short."

Although the Spiders return all but five starters, those lost are already causing Tait some concern. Taylor led the team in passing last season, hitting 49.1 percent of his passes for 549 yards and four touchdowns. Another replacement is needed for tailback Buster Jackson, the team's leading rusher in '77 with 779 yards. Demetri Kornegay, who led the Spiders in touchdowns last year, is Jackson's likely replacement.

Milt Ruffin returns to his fullback spot after averaging 4.3 yards per carry last year.

Tait's receiving corps is well set with the return of Ian Beckstead at tight end, and Mike Carter and Ken Tweedy out wide. Tweedy had the most grabs and TDs and is the best blocker, while Beckstead had the highest average per catch. Carter, who recovered from a fall automobile accident last year to earn a starting berth, is known for his blocking.

Guards Lou Bonato and Cubby Pritchard have graduated, but center Joe Kroger and tackles Jesse Moore and Forest Paulson return. Kroger played more minutes than any other offensive teammate last year, in on every down except kicking situations. Moore, at 6-3, 270, is Richmond's largest lineman, but Tait would like him to lose a little weight so as to increase his speed and mobility. Moore is just a sophomore. Paulson, meanwhile, is the strongest Spider, bench pressing 465 pounds.

Richmond's offense will have to do a lot better than last year if the Spiders are to improve. In 1977, Richmond scored only 129 points (11.7 per game average), none in the third quarter and only 28 in the fourth. UR averaged only 3.1 yards per rush, and while its completion rate was an adequate .493, the Spiders averaged just 81.4 passing yards per contest.

Defensively, there is much more to be said. Ten starters are back, led by All-America free safety Jeff Nixon. Nixon, a third team Associated Press selection two years ago and an honorable mention choice last year despite missing several games, holds the school's interception mark of 16. Nixon was second in tackles last year, but led the team in average stops per game in addition to garnering All-ECAC, All-South Independent and All-South honors for the second consecutive year.

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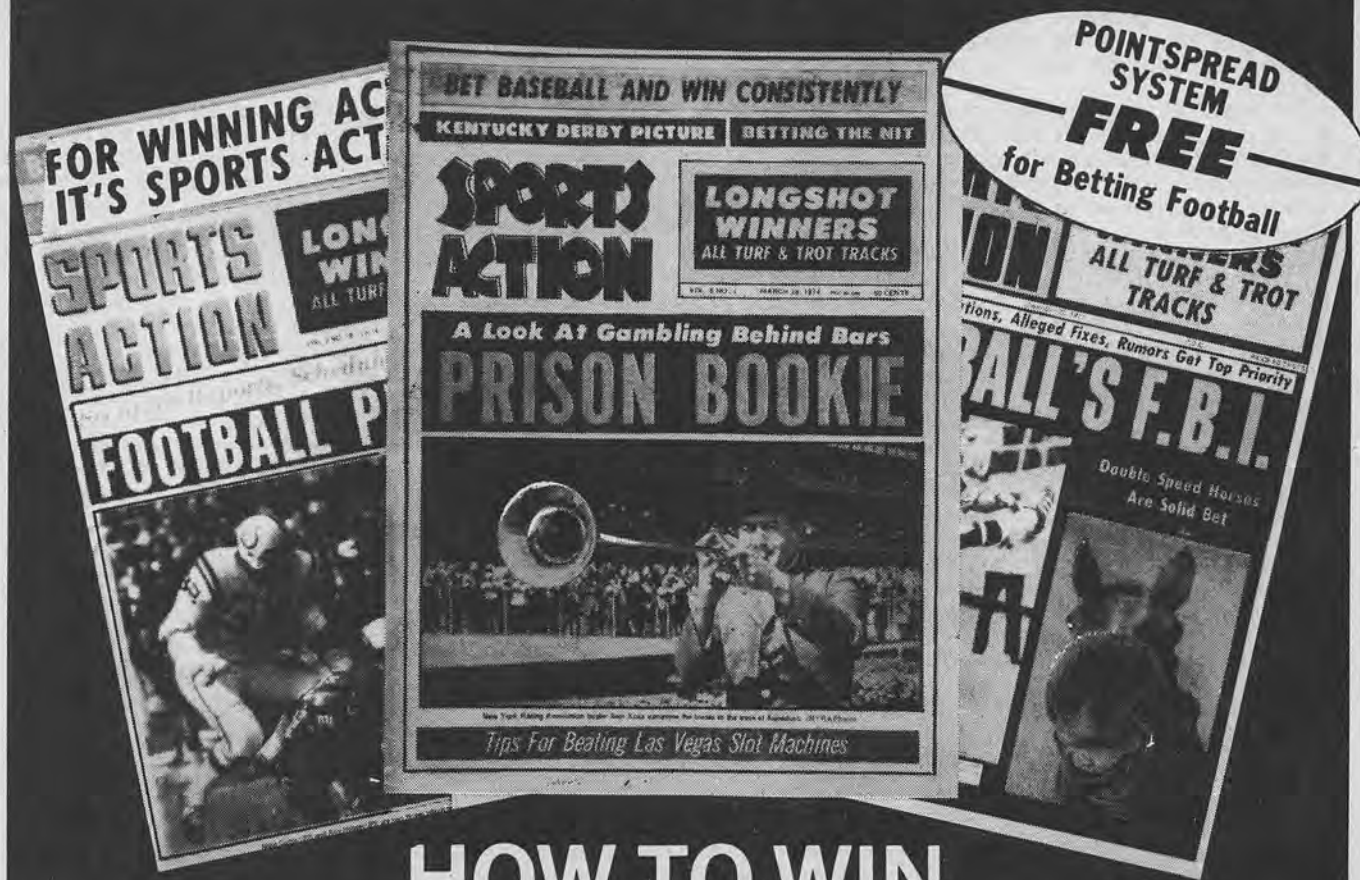

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Joining Nixon in the defensive backfield is strong safety Rueben Turner, just a sophomore. Turner led the team in fumble recoveries with four.

The corners are well set with seniors Ricky Crawford and Dave Haynie. Crawford is known as a hard-hitter while Haynie's forte is consistency.

Up front, all five linemen return. The unit is paced by end Ray Chase, the team's "Most Valuable Player" last season. Chase led the team in sacks with 10. He'll be joined by tackles Billy Chesire and Greg Mitchell, middle guard Ken Gilliam and end Jim Coppola.

Ray Kelly is a good one at linebacker, but Orlandus Branch, Richmond's leading tackler in '77, must be replaced.

Because of the poor offensive showing, the Spider defense was often overworked last year. The unit wound up surrendering an average of 26.6 points per game.

The Richmond schedule maintains a flavor of the Southern Conference (of which the Spiders were a member for 40 years) with a blend of independents (which they are now) and geographical rivals. After opening at home against Southern Mississippi, the Spiders hit the road for games against West Virginia, Wisconsin and Appalachian State. Home games with Cincinnati, VMI, North Carolina and William & Mary are interrupted by away contests with Villanova, East Carolina and UT-Chattanooga.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The Spiders' meager offensive output last year did them in, but with the loss of Taylor and Jackson, things could even get worse. Again, the defense, led by Nixon, will have to shoulder a disproportionate load and it's doubtful if even this veteran unit will be able to hold out forever.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-fair, Rushing-fair*
Defense: *Against passing-very good, Against rushing-fair*

RUTGERS (8-3)

Rutgers overcame an 0-2 start and a heart attack that sidelined head coach Frank Burns for the last four games to put together an 8-3 season in '77, and there's optimism this year that the Scarlet Knights can do it again — if Burns can fill some key positions.

Thirty-five lettermen return, among them six offensive starters and six defensive regulars to help Burns along.

The offensive line and secondary should be solid but Burns will have problems with depth on the defensive line and finding replacements for three four-year veterans in the offensive backfield.

Center John Fedorchak and guard Dan Pfabe will be missed along the offensive front but tackles John Gallo and Kevin Kurdyla again will provide a lot of blocking bulk. Also returning are guard John Bucci and tight end George Carter. Carter led the squad with 17 receptions for 391 yards last season.

Sophs Frank Naylor and John Law both saw action at center last year and will vie for the pivot while Pete Honeyford seems to have the edge at the vacant guard spot.

Quarterbacks Bert Kosup and Jeff Rebholz led the Scarlet to 35 victories over the past four seasons and will be sorely missed. The squad's MVP last year, Kosup won 26 as a starter and set records for career pass yardage and total offense. Senior Bob Hering is battling junior Jerry Smith and sophs Ed McMichael and Hank Drought for the starter's role.

Halfbacks Mike Fisher and Mark Lassiter also will be missed after permanent residences in the Scarlet running corps. Fisher started in 44 consecutive games and rushed for 3,388 all-purpose yards and Lassiter, who averaged 5.9-yards per carry in his senior year, accumulated 1,884 career yards.

On the plus side, fullback Glen Kehler, the Scarlet rushing leader for the past two seasons (151/764 as a soph and 164/866 as a junior) will be back along with Kevin Mannix, who had a 5.6 average in 34 carries.

A trio of swift sophomores are being counted on to pick up some of the running slack. Lester Johnson scored eight TDs while racing for 183 yards in his first season. Dave Dorn and Ted Blackwell also figure prominantly.

Walt Hynoski is back at wide receiver, as are Duane Cherry and Paul Fego.

Evaluating his defense, Burns says, "We should be fairly solid in the secondary and well set at the linebackers. The loss of Dan Gray on the defensive line will give us a problem and we have to find some depth behind the others."

Despite the loss of All-East free safety Bob Davis, the team's top tackler last year, the defensive secondary has four experienced players returning. Seniors Bob Hynoski, Sam Davis and Len McBroom were starters and soph Ken Smith eventually could be the best of the lot.

Inside linebackers Jim Hughes and Tim Blanchard will complete their collegiate careers and give the Scarlet strength in the defensive middle. Blanchard recorded 96 tackles in 1977 and Hughes, who missed last season after hernia problems, was an All-East selection in 1976.

Juniors Dave Brooks and Trent Mattern, along with soph Bob McNally, lend back-up strength inside and Dan McMahon should fill the shoes of the graduated Len Davis, a two-year starter on the outside.

The chief problem on the defensive line is to replace tackle Dan Gray, a three-year starter who recorded 80 tackles and seven sacks last season, and to find depth behind the returners.

Sophomore defensive end Phil Parkins, junior tackles Dino Mangiero and Jeff Hess and senior middle guard Pete Zimmerman are capable veterans in the first unit. Senior Rick Baldwin, a parttime starter at defensive end, and soph Ed Steward, who picked up a couple of starts at the middle guard post, will supply part of the depth.

Kennan Startzell returns in his role as placement punt specialist.

The Rutgers schedule for 1978 lists only one major power — Penn State. Other than the Nittany Lions, the Scarlet faces three Ivy foes (Princeton, Columbia and Yale), and largely regional competition including, Bucknell, Connecticut, Temple, Colgate, Holy Cross, Massachusetts and Villanova.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The Scarlet Knights have lost mightily from their offense and will have to struggle more this year to put points on the board. A solid defense and a lacklustre schedule should keep Rutgers from looking worse than it is.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-fair, Rushing-good*
Defense: *Against passing-very good, Against rushing-very good*

SOUTH CAROLINA (5-7)

Head coach Jim Carlen cites "establishing a quarterback and finding a free safety" as the key ingredients to the success or failure of this year's edition of the Gamecocks.

Thirty-three lettermen, including five offensive and five defensive starters are back, but the best Carlen has at quarterback is a half-dozen non-lettermen candidates.

"Quarterback is where it all begins," admits Carlen, "and that will be a big concern for us." He adds, "We're lacking in experience there and the position is wide open."

Candidates to direct the Gamecock triple option offense include juniors Skip Ramsey (transfer from Alabama), Greg Gresham and Jay Feltz and sophomores Steve Swinehart, Garry Harper, and Ray Derrick. Gresham is the only one to see action last year, completing four-of-18 passes in brief stints. The candidates are seeking to replace Ron Bass, Carolina's total offense leader last year.

Carlen stresses the point that he has a young football team as only five of the returning starters are seniors. Also, 22 of the squad's lettermen are underclassmen.

Regulars returning to the offensive line include guard Tom Penny and center Danny Clancy.

The rushing game, long a Carolina trademark, should be adequate in '77, especially if Carlen has semblance of an offensive line to complement the return of running backs Spencer Clark and Steve Dorsey. Clark led the team in rushing, compiling 777 yards in 135 attempts for a 5.8-yards per carry average. He scored eight touchdowns.

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Dorsey carried the ball 94 times for 418 yards, a 4.4-yard average, and scored six touchdowns. Carolina amassed 2,809 yards on the ground last year, the rushing aspect of the attack responsible for over two-thirds of the team's total offensive output.

If there is a passing game — last year Carolina completed but 44 percent of its aerials and had 13 intercepted against just four touchdowns — flanker Zion McKinney will be the recipient. McKinney finished second in Gamecock stats in '77 with 15 grabs. Certain to be missed will be wide receiver Phil Logan who snared 21 balls and accounted for 415 yards and a 19.8 average last season.

Cornerback Rick Sanford, a senior, is the only starter returning to the secondary, which is another area of concern for Carlen.

"We've got a lot of positions to fill in the secondary and free safety is an important position for us. That's a real key for our defense."

Joining Sanford as returnees defensively are senior end John Dantonio, junior tackle Steve Bernish, senior middle guard Bill Janus and junior linebacker Tim Singleton.

Carolina's defense performed yeomen service last year, shutting out Georgia Tech while limiting North Carolina to a lone touchdown, but the offense never seemed to click at the right time. When North Carolina was held to seven points, South Carolina scored three. And when the Gamecocks scored 21 (against Duke), the defense gave up 25. When Carolina scored 27 against Clemson, the defense gave up 31.

Punter Max Runager, who booted 61 times for a 42.8-yard average last year (none blocked) figures to be just as active this season.

A top Gamecock offensive weapon could be kicker Britt Parrish, who hit on 10-of-19 field goal attempts and 23-of-24 PATs last year.

Says Carlen, "We've got some positions that have to be filled, but we do have some young quality players that we feel have the ability to get the job done."

Carolina again will have seven home games in 1978, opening the schedule against Furman at Williams-Brice Stadium on Sept. 9. Other home games include Kentucky, Georgia, Ohio University, Mississippi, North Carolina and Wake Forest.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The Gamecocks have been wounded by graduation losses, especially in two critical areas — quarterback and strong safety. A saving grace for Carolina could be a schedule that has them at home for seven games, but able bodies in the stands can't make up for the lack of able bodies on the field. South Carolina will struggle to reach .500.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-poor, Rushing-fair*
Defense: *Against passing-poor, Against rushing-fair*

SYRACUSE (6-5)

Frank Maloney starts his fifth campaign in Orangeland with pluses and minuses. His biggest plus is quarterback Bill Hurley, an honors candidate. The biggest minus is a rugged schedule that features no less than five bowl opponents (Florida State, Maryland, N.C. State, Penn State and Pitt), all of which won.

Maloney has 40 lettermen returning from a squad that is riding a four-game winning streak and had near misses in seven-point losses to Penn State and Pitt. Also, he regains three starters who missed 1977 due to injuries.

But the biggest returnee is QB Bill Hurley. The senior signal-caller tossed for 1,455 yards on 108 for 201 accuracy (.537) and had eight TD passes. Hurley was particularly effective against top eastern foes Pittsburgh and Penn State. Against the Panthers the past two years Hurley has accounted for 563 yards total offense and last year ripped the Nittany Lions for 384 yards. Hurley is a double threat as a runner (top rusher the past two years) and could be a triple threat if Maloney didn't already have an established punter.

Running back Art Monk leads the infantry. Monk slashed for 566 yards in just 110 carries last year, a team-leading 5.1-yard average and wound up with 41 receptions for 590 more yards to lead the Orangemen in that category, too.

He'll be joined by soph Dennis Hartman who gained 273 yards and had a 4.9 yards-per carry average. Also available is junior college transfer Tom Matichak.

Hurley has a pair of good receivers in Mike Jones and Bruce Semall (47 combined catches), and more help is on the way. Tony Sidor, a reserve quarterback, will be tried at tight end with Semall. Syracuse employs a two tight end alignment.

The offensive line loses three regulars, including left tackle Neil Barton, center Paul Colvin and right guard Don Wells. Chuck Kirouac is the most likely replacement for Barton with Andy Gissinger assuming the pivot duties. Right guard is more difficult to fill because Wells' backup, Dave Retting, also has graduated. Larry Archis, a three time letterman, is solid at left guard with Craig Wolfley strong at right tackle. Another spring experiment has linebacker Steve Spinney taking a shot at center. Spinney snaps for punts and field goals so he isn't totally foreign to the position.

Defensively, the tackles have to be replaced and they (Ken Clarke and Bernie Winters) were very solid. John Cameron and Gordon Gronkowski will get starting shots after being substitutes last year. Chris Shaffer, a starting linebacker, will get a test at tackle, too. Ron Richardson, injured last season, also returns.

Willie McCullough at middle guard is quick and sound. Bob Tate is an experienced end while Kevin Yard and Ken Kollar should benefit from last year's experience.

Maloney feels linebacking is in the best shape in several years with the return of Jim Collins and John Kinley.

The secondary, too, should be improved with a letterman at every spot. Brian Ishman and DeShawn Hawkins will vie at one position. Both were hurt last season. John Patterson, Warren Harvey and Terry O'Leary are other experienced hands. Harvey led the team in thefts.

The kicking game returns last year's starters, Dave Jacobs and Jim Goodwill. Jacobs hit on 16-of-29 field goal attempts and 22-of-22 extra points. Goodwill punted for a 35.7 norm.

The Orange racked up 3,816 yards total offense last season but gave up even more, 3,935. Teams had nearly equal success running and passing the ball against Syracuse. In fact, it wasn't until the defense came around near the end of the season (49 points over the final four games) that Syracuse began to win with some consistency.

As mentioned earlier, the schedule is very difficult. In addition to Florida State, Maryland, N.C. State, Penn State and Pitt, the Orangemen must also play at Michigan State, Boston College, West Virginia and Miami (Fla.). None figure to be easy games.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: Hurley's heroics will keep things jumpin' for the Orangemen but that murderous schedule is bound to take its affect on a defense that has been nothing more than mediocre. Syracuse faithful are hoping for 7-4, but 4-7 might be more realistic.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-very good, Rushing-good*
Defense: *Against passing-fair, Against rushing-poor*

TULANE (3-8)

A narrow (20-17) season ending loss to bowl bound LSU, the return of 19 starters from a year ago and a wealth of experience have coach Larry Smith looking forward to a more productive season in 1978.

The Green Wave dropped four games last year by less than a touchdown but experience and confidence, feels Smith, could alter such results this season.

Helping Smith turn the tide will be nine starters from last year's offensive first-team. The only ingredients missing are tight end Zack Mitchell and tackle Eric Laakso, an honorable mention All-America.

Experience, or lack of it, is now a strength. The offensive line will be together for the third consecutive year. The unit is headed up by center Dee Methvin, tackle Gerry Sheridan and guards Percy Millet and Paul Mudrich.

The backfield, too, is deep and experienced. Roch Hontas returns with

an NCAA percentage title (63.4) from his sophomore year, and retains all but one of his receivers. The top two, Alton Alexis and Skip Charles, are back. Alexis had 30 catches and four scores in '77 while Charles had 28 for three.

Notre Dame transfer Willard Browner, a 6-4, 230-pound fullback, is expected to bolster the ground game. He'll join Marvin Christian and Jeff Jones, the Green Wave's top two rushers from a year ago. Christian did the most work, toting the ball 170 times for 691 yards (4.1 avg.) and seven TDs, while Jones had the better average (4.6), but less carries (71) and yards (324). Christian, who did not start until the third game, is just a junior while Jones, another non-starter, is but a sophomore.

Despite these fine figures, Tulane had its problems on the turf last year, gaining only 2.8 yards per carry. Better results are predicted for '78.

On defense, the top 12 tacklers from 1977 are back. The leader was freshman middle guard Wilfred Simon who did not gain a starting berth until after midseason, yet finished the year with 108 tackles. Junior linebackers Jim Becnel with 104 and John Ammerman with 101 were next. Ammerman played hurt all season and this kept him from repeating as the leading tackler. As a sophomore in 1976 he had 161 stops.

On the line, Simon will be flanked by ends Thad Lee and Al Jones with Larry Bizzotto occupying one tackle spot.

The defensive backfield is solid with Ricky Dunaway, Jeff Gates, Mike Sims and Peter Townsend all returning. The unit permitted just 47.9 percent completions last year and an average of only 118.3 aerial yards per game.

The kicking game is solid with placement specialist Ed Murray and punter Frank Wills both returning. Murray has been named to the first unit All-South Independent team the last two years and figures to improve even more over his last two campaigns. The soccer-style kicker hit on 12 of 22 field goal attempts last year, all his misses coming at a distance over 40 yards.

Freshman Frank Wills compiled a 38.9 yard punting average last year, but had exceptional hang time.

One problem Tulane will have to solve is kick coverage. Four times last year the Green Wave was burned for six-pointers on kick returns.

Tulane's schedule is not an easy one. Traditional powers Maryland, Pittsburgh, Georgia Tech and Stanford comprise the first four games, with only the Pittsburgh contest at home. The Wave's fifth game of the year also is on the road — in Nashville against Vanderbilt. Four straight home contests (Boston College, TCU, Memphis State and Miami) precede an away game with Mississippi and the season's finale, also on the road, at LSU.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The experience Tulane players have gained over the past three years could reap dividends this season as the Green Wave presents its best team in quite some time. The offense should do better than last year's 181 points while Smith expects his defense to improve on the 289 points it surrendered in '77. Anticipated improvement on both fronts should mean a much better year for the Wave.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-Excellent, Rushing-good.*
Defense: *Against Passing-very good, Against rushing-fair.*

WEST VIRGINIA (5-6)

Seventy-five football players, including 29 lettermen and 14 starters, greeted head coach Frank Cignetti when camp opened on March 27, but the Mountaineer mentor is concerned about filling some glaring gaps on the depth chart.

' 'We need to stabilize the quarterback position and rebuild the defensive secondary, ' ' says Cignetti. The Mountaineers will be without the services of record-setting passer Dan Kendra (graduated) and scrambling signal-caller Danny Williams who will be attending Oxford on a Rhodes scholarship

Kendra passed for a record 4,781 yards during his career at WVU and also set the school total offense mark. Now, Cignetti must turn to youngsters to direct the pro-veer and I attacks. Top contenders for the job include Dutch Hoffman, Doug Banda and Mike Williams, the brother of Danny. Hoffman held for placements last year but attempted only four passes; Banda and Williams saw no varsity action at quarterback.

Another area of concern for Cignetti is the defensive secondary. Three starters — Harold Woods, Tom Pridemore and Kevin Berkey — have graduated and fourth, Fulton Walker, appears headed for offensive duty.

Several positions, however, promise good performances. Cignetti counts the receiving corps as one such area. Steve Lewis, an All-America hopeful, returns to split end after missing nearly all of last year with a broken collarbone. Lewis has 73 career catches and 1,141 yards and needs out 32 receptions to become WVU 's all-time leader in that category.

Cedric Thomas, who stepped in last year when Lewis was injured, led the Mountie receivers with 37 catches for 699 yards, eight TDs and an 18.9-yard average.

Rich Duggan will be tried at tight end after playing flanker last year, making 15 catches for 221 yards and two scores. He 'll battle Ricky Davis.

The backfield will be built around runners Robert Alexander, Fulton Walker and James Tackett. Alexander (' 'The Great ' ') rushed for 426 yards (4.5) despite an injury-plagued freshman year. Tackett was used sparingly, while Walker 's running was restricted to bringing back kicks, an area in which he excelled.

The backfield loses two good ones in Dave Riley, a 616 yard producer, and Walter Easley, who gained 447 but has been placed in suspension for this season.

Although it will miss graduated center Clay Singletary and tackle Wayne Gatewood, the Mountaineer offensive line will have considerable experience. Top candidates for the starting center slot include Jack Palmer, Pat Conachan and Tobin Geatz. Veteran linemen will include Jeff Cortileso, Randy Wepler, Jim Himic, Al Thomas and Terry Alessi. Promising giant (6-6, 260) Frank Kinczel is a sophomore of which much is expected.

Defensively, the Mountaineers will look for leadership from All-East middle guard Joe Jelich and All-East linebacker Jeff Macerelli. Jelich heads up a line that also includes and Delbert Fowler, who led the team in tackles for losses (nine for 65 yards). Jelich, himself, had 96 stops (fourth best on the team) and eight sacks. They 'll be joined by tackles Robin Meeley and Al Pisula, giving the Mounties experience up front.

Macerelli, meanwhile, will have Bob Tomko back as his running mate at linebacker. Macerelli led the Mountaineers in tackles, far outdistancing his mates with 172 stops last year.

Steve Sinclair, a right-footed sidewinder kicker, takes over for the graduated Bill McKenzie. Sinclair has a strong leg but needs to devlope consistency before he can be considered a dependable short man, too. Walkon Ron George, a conventional style kicker, will challenge for the job.

Ken Hatton averaged a below par 33.3 yards per punt last year but will have to do better this go round if he intends to fight off the challenges of several aspirants.

The West Virginia schedule has the Mountaineers on the road against three bowl teams — Oklahoma, North Carolina State and Pittsburgh — with a fourth, Penn State, coming in to Morgantown. There 's also a meeting with California, a traditional hookup with Syracuse, and game with Richmond, Virginia Tech, Temple, Virginia, and Colorado State.

ACCU-LINE CONCLUSION: The Mounties are hurting in the "skill" positions, lacking an experienced quarterback and proven running backs. Such deficiencies as these will place a heavy burden on a defense that is sorely lacking in experienced secondary personnel. Both lines will be tested to stem the tide, but it 's doubtful if they can hold out forever. The schedule has its soft spots so WVU will get its wins — but not too many.

OUTLOOK

Offense: *Passing-poor, Rushing-fair*
Defense: *Against passing-poor, Against rushing-very good*

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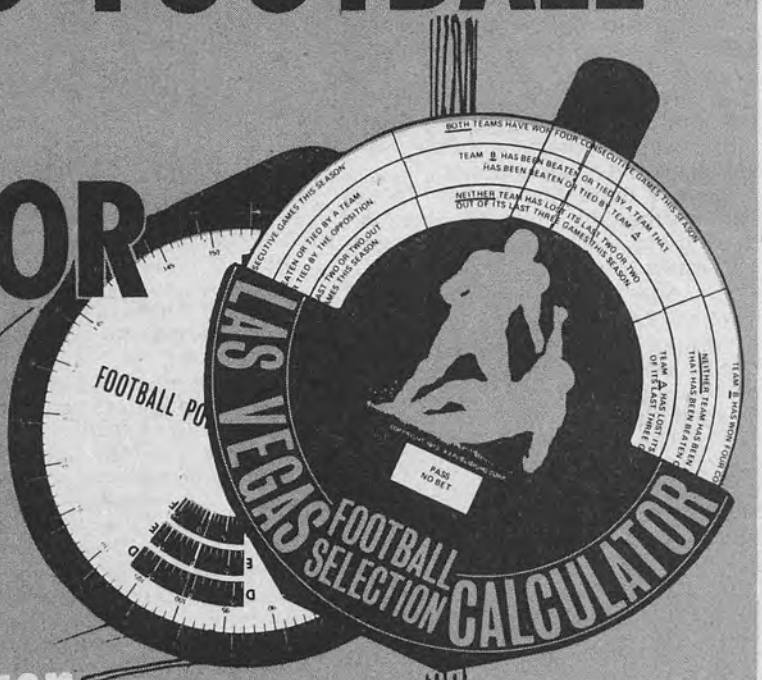

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HOW IT HAPPENED

by **LOU BOERI**

Bob Harris, resident mathematical genius of the K2 Publishing Corp., and I were breaking bread together one cold January evening in 1970. The long 1969-70 football season had finally ended just weeks before and the talk, at that time, among sports fanatics centered around such things as whether or not the Knicks could go all the way that year; would it be Milwaukee or L.A. in the NBA West; how much longer it would be before the NHL expansion teams acquired enough talent and finesse to play on the same ice with the likes of Montreal, Boston, Chicago, et al; and how the soph crop of thoroughbreds that would be competing for the "big bread" at Churchill Downs, Pimlico, and Belmont in just a few short months was shaping up.

I had been wanting to steer the converstation around to the recently concluded grid wars so that I could bemoan the ill-fortune that had befallen me so often during the previous five months or so by the unpredictable bounces that the nasty, little, obltate spheroid known as a football. I realized, however, that nothing is staler than yesterday's sports results so I knew that I would have to wait for the most opportune moment to get into the subject, if this fine gentleman, sitting across from me, in the process of annihilating a lovely looking piece of sirloin, would allow me to bounce my theories (unsuccessful as they may be) on betting football, off his mathematically-oriented brain. When that elusive moment finally arrived, I pounced on it like a hungry lion on a gazelle. The timing was perfect. Bob could do nothing but listen since it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to change a subject when one's mouth is crammed full of choice beef. So as I got in my "licks", Bob listened attentively, and after having taken the recommended number of "chews" before swallowing, and then swallowing properly, he made a statement that was to be the initial step toward the evolution of the Vegas Football Betting Calculator.

"Lou," he wryly smiled, "why don't you stop guessing and start winning?"

The statement, at that time, made about as much sense to me as would have my attempt to read the late edition of the Peking Daily News in its original Mandarin dialect, so, very profoundly, I retorted, "Huh?" Bob then patiently explained to me that with the data I had accumulated and the conclusions that I had arrived at through the years, I had the nucleous of a winning method for betting football. All that needed to be done was to refine certain areas to eliminate much of the "guesswork."

"Think you can do it, Bob?", I hopefully asked.

"No doubt in my mind Lou," he answered nonchalantly.

"Wanna give it a try, Bob,"

"Why not Lou. Got nothing better to do the next few days."

"How you gonna do it Bob?"

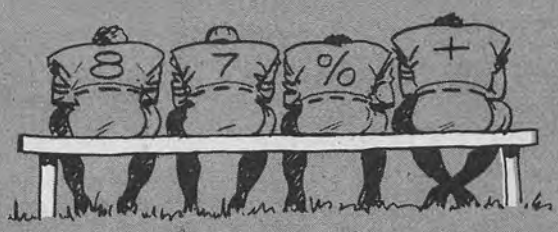
"Boolean Algebra, Lou."

At that point in the conversation I just shut up and listened as he explained that by applying the principles of Boolean Algebra (I wouldn't dare ask him what that was) he could take the data I had accumulated, along with the valid theories I had developed, synthesize them into a theorem, and then "attempt to logic out" certain unknowns until he developed as near perfect a wagering system as is possible (I swear that's what he said. I didn't understand a word of it but he sounded like he did, and, I figured, hell, that was all that mattered.)

To shorten this story, I turned my material over to Bob Harris and before the first toe crushed into the first ball kicking off the 1970 grid season, he had "logiced out" his system, and had designed and fabricated a rough prototype of the Vegas Football Betting Calculator.

By the end of the '70 season, I was so amazed at what Harris' tiny "machine" had done that I simply couldn't believe that it was real. The Calculator had selected 32 games during the year as "Bets." Thirty of them had won and had beaten the point spread every time! The calculator's win percentage averaged out to 93.8%. It had "insisted" that we bet certain games when all established betting principles (to say nothing of common sense and logic) said "lay off,", and it had been invariably right!. Games such as Notre Dame-Navy with the "spread" at "Navy plus 40." All the smart money said "take the points." The Calculator said "give the points." We gave the points and "laughed" home with the Irish, 56-7. And these kinds of selections continued on into and throughout the 1971 and the 1972 seasons during which "Bob's Baby" just never ceased to amaze.

At the end of the 1972 season, with a hefty 84% win percentage in his pocket, it was decided that "test time" was over and it was time to go into production with the VFBC. The result of this decision is fully described in this brochure.



FROM THE BENCH

by **LOU BOERI**

During the three years that the VFBC was in its testing stage, one very important fact became obvious to Bob Harris and all the others at the K2 Publishing Corp. involved in the project. Apparently, the point spread was more-or-less arbitrary (within certain limits) which, of course, made it ihcreasingly difficult for the Calculator to decide "Bet" or "No Bet" on certain games. The "gentlemen of the book" were taking the national line and "doctoring" it on the local level (in some instances by as much as 7 to 10 points either up or down depending on how much "action" they desired on selected games.) In order to compensate for this, a method was devised by which a bettor could -very easily and quickly- make his own line which invariably, is "right on" the line emanating from Las Vegas. Armed with this, the bettor is now able to "shop" for the most accurate "spread", if need be.

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NORTHERN ARIZONA (9-3)

Northern Arizona, coming off its most successful season in 19 years, returns 18 starters from the team which finished second in the Big Sky with a 5-1 record, tied for the No. 5 spot nationally among NCAA Division II teams and participated in the Division II playoffs, losing to Jacksonville State of Alabama.

This performance resulted in Big Sky Conference Coach of the Year and District 8 (Div. II) honors for NAU mentor Joe Salem.

The Lumberjacks' strong suit defensively will be the fact that eight of the nine returning starters will be starting for the third consecutive year and three of them have been starters since midway through their freshman terms.

The defensive front is nearly intact with the return of ends Ed Hightower and Ed Judie, tackle Jim Anders and middle guard Neal Higginson.

Linebacking is in good hands with Jerry Lumpkin, a first-team All-Big-Sky and honorable mention All America recipient last year, and Phil Cancik.

Three of the four defensive backs return in strong safety Harold Smith, who has started since the middle of his freshman year, Ray Smith (no relation), and left corner Joe Walker, also a four-year starter. Harold Smith is a two-time Big Sky honoree while Ray Smith led the conference in punt returns in 1976 and was second to Walker last fall.

NAU's overall defense in '77 was terrific, limiting the opposition to 2.5 yards per rush and only 46 percent completed passes.

Returning offensive starters include tight end James Collins, who caught 19 passes for 247 yards; Rodger Carbone, a mammoth 6-7, 275-pounder who is starting for the fourth straight year; Bob Orrill, who has moved from tackle to left guard and also is a four-year starter, and Mike Santiago, center. Right guard was split last year between Jim Delaney and Ted Kawulok. Delaney has graduated. Mike Cheap appears set to inherit the right tackle spot created by Orrill's move to guard while wide receiver Tyrone Peterson returns for the fourth year, too.

Tim Kerr paces Montana attack.

In the backfield, fullback Carl Golden led the Big Sky in rushing as a soph and picked up 704 yards last year despite being slowed by injuries. He has first-team Big Sky credentials.

Tailback Allan Clark and flanker Ken Fraser also return. Clark ran for 665 yards last year while Fraser hauled in 33 passes for 636 yards and seven TDs.

A wide open battle appears set for quarterback now that Herb Daniel has graduated. Bill Holst, a Juco transfer who won his league's Player of the Year award, will vie with Robbin Jones and Steve Loomis.

Biggest offensive loss, though, may be placekicker Tom Jurich who kicked 20 field goals, erasing most of Jan Stenerud's Big Sky and NCAA marks.

MONTANA STATE (6-4)

First year coach Sonny Lubick, an MSU assistant for eight seasons, takes over the helm of the Bobcats following the resignation of Sonny Holland after a 6-4 campaign and 3-3 conference mark.

Heading into the 1978 season Montana State has 29 returning lettermen, including seven offensive starters and eight defensive regulars.

Offensively, the Bobcats will have some holes to fill, particularly up front where four of last year's starters are lost to graduation. Except for fullback, the MSU "I" returns intact.

Montana State was the leading ground-gaining team in the Big Sky Conference last season, averaging over 244 yards per outing. Chief proponent of the ground forces is tailback Delmar Jones, an All-Big Sky pick who rushed for 1,050 yards and nine TDs last year while averaging 5.3 yards per carry. Jones teams with Scott Hoard, a 606-yard provider in '77.

Filling the fullback void created by the graduation of Mike Vidmar will be either Jeff Losett, the lone letterman at that spot, Jeff Davis or Mike Doerfler.

Paul Dennehy, an all-conference selection at quarterback as a sophomore, returns for his senior year. Dennehy tossed for 634 yards in '77 and ran for 339 more.

The entire receiving corps is back, led by Mark McGrath, who doubles as the team's best punt returner. McGrath is joined by Scott Quittem and Jeff Muri. Muri also is the team's placekicker, having connected on all 25 extra points and 4 of 13 field goals last year.

Leading the offensive front is 6-5, 240-pound tackle Jon Borchardt, an honorable mention All-America last year. He teams with starting guards Jay Daly and Jeff Conley, the latter a starter before being injured.

Defensively, the Bobcats have a letterman at every position, but depth in the front and secondary positions is a major concern.

The trenches yield Rick Vancleeve and Rick Kelsic, first and second team Big Sky honorees, respectively. Tom Powell is back at middle guard with John Close a regular at end.

Both starting linebackers return, Mark DeVore and Brian McFaul.

Although the secondary lost three veterans, the Bobcats return five lettermen there. Free safety Jim Janhunen led the team in interceptions with four and is a returning starter. Strong safety Jim Mickelson also returns for his senior year.

BOISE STATE (9-2)

After posting a perfect 6-0 Big Sky mark, a 9-2 overall record and an offense that ranked fifth in the nation, coach Jim Criner faces a rebuilding year of sorts with the Broncos.

The champion Broncs lost 21 men to graduation including the two-deep in the defensive line and almost the whole offensive front.

"You would have to classify this as a rebuilding year for us," Criner admitted. "Our offensive approach will be the same as last year, but we will be utilizing our fullback more and there will be emphasis on our counter passing game. Our defense will be developing an entirely new group of people to play up front."

The major strength in the '78 offense will be the running back corps and at the quarterback spot. The Broncos have four good backs in Cedric Minter, David Hughes, Fred Goode, and Terry Zahner. Minter gained a BSU record 877 yards last year while averaging 5.8 yards per carry and Zahner picked up 724 (5.5) and was tabbed first team All-Big Sky and honorable mention All-America. Goode hit for 584 yards and a 4.6 average while Hughes blocked like a tank and averaged 4.7 yards per run.

Quarterbacks Hoskin Hogan and Dee Picket completed 50.9 percent of their combined passes for 2,201 yards and 18 touchdowns. The duo will both see action again this year.

The only returning starter on the offensive line is an important one — All-Big Sky and honorable mention All-America center Mark Villano. Dale Phillips, Villano's backup last year, has been moved to quick guard, but the other spots are still up for grabs.

The BSU receiving corps will be hurt by the graduation of first team Associated Press All-America Terry Hutt but Lonnie Hughes, who was second to Hutt in receptions last year with 36, should blossom. Two 9.7 sprinters, Charles Norris and Mike Grant, will by vying for a receiver spot, too.

The strength of the Bronco defense should be the linebacking corps where three starters are back. They are inside linebacker Bob McCauley, who led BSU in tackles last year; Willie Beamon, a second team AP All-America and All-Big Sky selection; and, outsider Larry "Iron Man" Polowski.

Boise State's defensive secondary is headed by Sam Miller, a second team all conference pick, and Larry Osborne, who returns from an injury.Nash Balinton and Larry Morritt should complete a sticky secondary.

The lone returnee on the defensive front will be Dennis Brodine. He'll get help from a quartet of transfers, Jack White, Mark Winton, Bob Cabrerra and Willy Tufono.

Tom Sarette, who kicked 37 of 40 PAT's and 10 of 18 field goals, returns for the placements with eigher Ed Thomas or Curt Minges assuming the punting chores.

MONTANA (4-6)

With the return of 15 starters from last year's 4-6 team, coach Gene Carlson is hopeful the Grizzlies can reverse some of those narrow defeats and turn 1978 into a winning season. Montana's '77 campaign got off on a frustrating note when the Grizzlies dropped a two-points decision to Las

Vegas followed by a one-point loss to Northern Arizona. Later in the year, there was a five point setback.

Carlson has experience at the "skill" positions but must rebuild the offensive line if the Grizzlies truly are to be consistently effective. Heading the returnees will be tailback Monty Bullerdick, a Big Sky and honorable mention All-America recipient. Bullerdick rushed for 1,022 yards last year while averaging 4.8 yards per carry. Joining him in the backfield will be fullbacks Grant Kleckner and Greg Bitar, who shared that position last year. Kleckner produced 415 yards and a 5.1-yard average while Bitar had 352 yards and a 3.9 norm.

Quarterback Tim Kerr returns for his senior year after completing 82 of 160 passes (.513) for 1,097 yards and nine touchdowns.

The Grizzly aerial game should be strong with the return of Kerr and his top two receivers, Vern Kelly and tight end Allen Green. Kelly caught 42 passes for 539 ayrds and was named second team All-Big Sky last year. Green, a 6-2, 230-pounder, had 22 receptions for six TDs.

Candidates for graduated Randy Ogden's flanker spot include Jim Brant, Joe Gelakoska, Bill Lane, Jeff Howard, Bill Dolan and Jim Hard. Brant seems to have the most experience.

The offensive line absorbed the biggest loss to graduation. Four linemen are gone but Guy Bingham is a potential honors candidate at guard. Tim Hook and Mike Bryant are mentioned as potential starters with the likes of Brian McHugh, Basil Jones, Mark Eickelmann, John Price, Frank Foisia, Carlton Lamb and Jim Duff vying for the other openings.

The Montana defense will be anchored by All-Big Sky second team pick Steve Fisher and his linemate, Sam Martin. Robbie Dews, Brad Woodford and Brett Barrick also will compete for defensive line positions.

Second-team All-Big Sky selection Scott Morton will hold down one outside linebacker spot with his partner coming from among Kent Clausen, Barry Sacks and Jim Hogan. The inside linebacker posts should be handled by last year's regulars, Carm Carteri and Dave Gleason. Gleason is a Second Team conference selection.

The secondary has depth and experience with Kelly Johnson returning at free safety and Greg Dunn back at cornerback. Mike Johnson is the leading candidate for strong safety while Scot Ferda and Ed Cerkovnik again are expected to rotate at cornerback.

For the first time in four years, Bruce Carlson will not handle the University of Montana kicking game. The all-time leading UM scorer has graduated leaving tight end Green as the apparent heir for the punting job with transfer Terry Thomas a leading candidate for the placements.

WEBER STATE (4-6)

Weber State only posted a 4-6 mark last year but there is a general feeling that the worm is beginning to turn under coach Pete Riehlman's direction.

The optimism continues this season — and with some justifiable cause. The Wildcats return most of the elements of the third-rated passing game in the lane and have improved height, weight, speed and numbers at almost all positions.

The 'cats return 27 lettermen, losing just eight to graduation.

Heading the list of returnees is Dennis Duncanson, a multi-decorated free safety who was the second leading tackler on the team in addition to having 10 interceptions in as many games. He is the only returning member of the coach's All-American team.

Giving the Wildcats great overall strength in the defensive backfield are returnees Mike Rosky (third in the Big Sky in interceptions) and Doug Battershill (an All-Conference selection two seasons ago). The Wildcat pass defense topped the Big Sky last year and again is the unit's strength.

Weber State returns seven lettermen in the line and linebacking positions. Tim Evans, a Big-Sky pick, anchors the middle linebacking post.

The big name on the defensive front is Mike McLeod, a two-year starter.

Offensively, the Wildcat passing attack accumulated more yardage in '77 than any previous Weber State team, despite the fact that only 10 games were played. Most of the men responsible for the aerial onslaught are back in uniform, including quarterback Morris Bledsoe, the conference's first-string signal caller. Bledsoe passed for 1,895 yards and nine TDs with 53 percent accuracy on his way to placing fifth nationally in passing offense and first in the conference in passing and total offense.

Two of Bledsoe's favorite targets return in tight end Kent Critchlow — 33 passes caught — and wide receiver Scott Thomas who grabbed 30.

Mark Billmire, the Wildcats' top rusher in '77, has graduated, but the Nos. 2, 3, and 4 men return. Eric Hill, Ken Dobbins and Willie Glasper should keep the infantry from getting bogged down.

Another source of optimism for Weber State is the offensive line which has gained considerable weight and experience from last year's pass-blocking crew. Rod Harrison, Perry Kuras, Bob Leigh, Delano Lewis and Rory Meyers hold forth there.

Although Weber State appears improved, the competition is too. Besides Big Sky foes, the Wildcats play four Division I schools — all on the road.

IDAHO STATE (3-8)

Idaho State moves into Phase II of coach Bud Hake's "Fight Like Hell" program for upgrading Bengal football after ISU posted a 3-8 mark last year. Phase II includes the return of some 38 gridders who saw considerable playing time last year, the addition of one of ISU's best-ever crew of incoming frosh, and a 7,000-mile road trip to Japan to play Utah State on September 2nd.

Idaho State has rejected the notion that an instant program must be based on junior college recruiting, and Hake feels ISU's success with incoming freshmen backs up his judgement.

"We not only got quality players, we got the numbers we needed to get . . . our recruiting was exactly what we wanted it to be," said Hake.

Hake's offense, which produced 145 points last year, couldn't keep up with a defense that permitted 299, and improvement must come on both sides of the ball if the Bengals are in '78 to avoid such misfortunes as the 47-0 thrashing Portland St. inflicted on them.

Offensively, the skill positions have experience. Running back Eddie McGill rolled for 801 yards in 193 carries last year for a 4.2 average and two touchdowns while Bruce Bachmeier added 347 (4.4) and Don Woolley 273 (3.7). All three return, and Hake is hoping the infantry will be more productive than last year when they averaged slightly over three yards per carry. Complementing the ground game should be the signing of frosh center Mike Stantz, one of the most sought-after prospects at the pivot position.

Mike Spoon did the majority of the passing last year but connected on only 68 of 180 attempts (37.8) with seven TDs and 14 interceptions. Backup Dirk Koetter wasn't any better, hitting just 26 of 71 (36.6) with no TDs and six interceptions.

Top receiver in '77 was Woolley, who caught 19 for 167 yards. Also returning is Greg Smith (16 catches for 209 yards).

Tom Townsend and Warren Whitaker will join with Stantz to form the nucleus that is the offensive line.

Defensively, the men to watch are tackle Michael Johnson, end Mark Tuson, linebacker Neal Richardson, cornerback Mike Allison and safety Brett Helmandollar. Helmandollar led the team in interceptions with four.

Kicker Jeff Fillmore, who booted five field goals and punted 23 times for a 41.0 average, also returns.

IDAHO (3-8)

Only nine starters are back from last year's disappointing 3-8 team and first-year head coach Jerry Davitch promises some changes.

"The fans are definitely going to need to buy a program to find out just who is playing where," says the former Air Force Academy assistant. "Any time anybody comes into a new program there's going to be some adjustments made. You can't come back and look for the people to play exactly where they were last season. Now some of them may be in the same spot."

Some of the key athletes whose positions most likely will remain the same are running backs Robert Brooks and Tim Lappano; offensive lineman Larry Coombs; wide receiver Kirk Allen; and defensive back Rick Linehan. All of these athletes have a chance for Big Sky honors.

Brooks ranks among the top four rushers in Idaho history. He is returning this season after suffering a knee injury in the season opener last year, but is expected to regain the form that made him the team's leading rusher his sophomore and junior years.

Joining Brooks will be Tim Lappano, the Vandal's top ball carrier of '77 when he gained 846 yards and had a 6.0-yard average.

Coombs, a second-team All-Big Sky pick, bulwarks the offensive line from his tackle spot.

Allen heads the list of returning receivers. The three-time letterman had 31 catches for 545 yards last season.

Idaho's No. 1 defensive player returns in the person of Linehan. Last season he led the team in tackles, had five interceptions, five pass deflections and five quarterback sacks. As the only starting defensive back returning, he will be a key to Idaho's pass defense.

Rocky Tuttle, who shared the quarterback spot last season, will get a crack at sole possession this season. Tuttle ran for 348 yards and passed for 543 with 34-of-88 accuracy.

The only returning defensive lineman is a good one, 6-7, 260-pound Steve Parker, who the Idaho coaches feel is marked for greatness.

Other familiar faces on defense will be linebackers Dan Cozzett and Chris Eads, both of whom saw considerable action last year.

Davitch has indicated a liking for the option-oriented offense and the 5-2 defense but won't rule out changes.

He concedes he is not looking forward to a schedule that has Idaho playing its first three games on the road against San Jose State, Washington State and Wichita State. The only thing Davitch is willing to promise is that "Idaho will be competitive in the Big Sky Conference."

Yankee Con.

MASSACHUSETTS (8-3)

New head coach Bob Pickett has 30 returning lettermen from last year's fine 8-3 team but the loss of 13 starters (eight on offense and five on defense) coupled with the Minutemen's new 1-AA NCAA classification may prevent Massachusetts from matching last year's performance.

Pickett plans to continue with a multiple offense featuring "I" and Wing-T formations although many key positions will have new faces.

What's left of the offense will be built around All-Yankee Conference guard Bruce Kimball and center Mike McLaughlin. The only other offensive returnee is fullback Hank Sareault. The stocky (5-11,235) senior bulled his way for 519 yards and a 4.4-yard average in 1977 including four touchdowns.

The other running back spot, so ably filled by Billy Coleman last year (824 yards, 4.6 yard average and eight touchdowns) is up for grabs with no letterman available.

Mike McEvilly will inherit the quarterback spot. He played in six games last year and saw limited action.

The receiving corps, too, will be brand new. Chris Kurtz, who was third on the team last year in receptions, will move into a starter's role at split end with Dennis Dent assuming the flanker chores. Dent caught only five passes but averaged 36.2-yards per catch last season.

No lettermen tight ends are available.

Offensive line replacements will come from the likes of Karl Nyholm, Alec Westerlind and Richard Bouley.

Defensively, six starters are back, including all-conference linebacker Joe McLaughlin and end John D'Amato, another all-league selection.

D'Amato will be joined by regulars Dave Bemis and John McDonald with Duncan Gillan to move into one open line berth.

McLaughlin's running mate at linebacker will be either Gordon Stevens or Bob Wilson.

The secondary retains cornerback Kevin Sullivan and safety Steve McInnis and Todd Holt should move into the other cornerback slot. However, safety position must still be filled.

RHODE ISLAND (6-5)

In his second year as shepherd of the Rams, coach Bob Griffin turned the Rhode Island program around, fashioning only URI's third winning season in 20 years in addition to a 4-1 Yankee Conference mark, good enough for second place.

Now, with 36 lettermen returning, the task, clearly, is to keep such new-found momentum from fizzling out.

Aiding Griffin will be quarterback Steve Tosches, the conference's top hurler. Tosches threw for 1,200 yards while establishing a new URI pass-completion percentage mark of 55.8.

The East's (ECAC) rookie-of-the-year, LeRoy Shaw, returns at tailback after flashing for 765 yards in his freshman campaign, third best in the league. He'll be joined by freshman Joe Brooks, who has the unenviable task of replacing first-team All-Conference fullback Rich Moser.

The receiving corps is in fine hands with returning regulars Rob Welsh and Dave Frageorgia anchoring the ends. Welsh was the leading Ram receiver with 24 grabs for 339 yards, good for fourth in the conference last year. Frageorgia grabbed a dozen aerials for 161 yards. Two-year slotback starter Lorenzo Henderson will be moved to wide receiver and the slot will be manned by Steve Cimalore who finished last season with 21 catches for 241 yards.

The offensive line is spearheaded by three-time letterman guard Pete Sinagra, along with tackles Dave Bernard and Dennis Heck. Matt Curran should hold down center.

Defensively, the Rams are as well off as on offense. The crew is headed by Little All-America tackle Dick Bell, who also copped All-East, All-New England and All-Conference first-team laurels last year. Joining Bell will be tackle Paul McNulty and middle guard John M. Wallace. Mark Cruise and Mark DiGangi will hold forth at the ends. Certain to be missed, however, will be conference picks Tony Ozello (MG) and Lee Holden (DE).

The linebacking duo of Tom Marhefka and Ben Bottone makes this position a strong one for the Rams. Marhefka had a super season last year, registering 144 tackles. He is a three-year starter.

Estes Benson, John Weber and John "Eli" Wallace return to anchor the defensive backfield, with lettermen Ken Lee and John Crawford going after the remaining position.

The Ram kicking game is on the capable toe of senior Rick Viall who returns to handle both the punting and placement duties.

NEW HAMPSHIRE (8-2)

UNH head coach Bill Bowes summed up the Wildcats' prospects in one word, "interesting," he stated.

Twenty-nine lettermen return from the 1977 team, but among the 21 lettermen who were lost to graduation are seven first-team All-Yankee Conference picks.

"Obviously we lost a number of outstanding football players," Bowes admitted "We have confidence in the replacements, but it remains to be seen whether we will be able to reach the same level of success that we have the past three years."

Ten starters return, five on offense and five on defense. Depth at tailback and an experienced line are the main strengths of the offense. The backfield has been stripped of its starters but a large number of candidates will be vying for the open berths.. Steve Wholley, who sat out '77 with a bum wheel, is the heir-apparent at quarterback. Bill Coleman, Tom Delozier and Paul Ingui will contend for the tailback position. The fullback position is one of the coaching staff's greatest concerns with Bill Cameron, Chuck Sullivan, and Skip Swiezynski heading the list of candidates.

Tom Ruffen, who started at flanker last year, will move to tight end with recuperated Dave Loehle now occupying the flanker spot. Tim Benson is the favorite to inherit the split end position.

Four starters are back on the offensive line including second-team all-conference players Dave Kelley and Don Wholfarth. Phil Estes and Phil Hamilton also return.

Inside linebacker may be the strongest position on the team with last year's starters back. Bowes calls Mike Marchese and Greg Donahue "the best pair of linebackers in the Yankee Conference."

Up front, Doug Gray and Bill Logue will team with Tom Kilianski, Mike Halligan, Jack Wolpe and Tom Vasta in a rebuilt defensive line.

Tim Confrey heads the linebacking corps.

Graduation hit the defensive backfield hard, taking away two all-conference performers. The unit thus, will be paced by second-team all-conference cornerback Frank Mucci.

Bowes' replacements will have to fit right in quickly if the winning trend at New Hampshire is to continue this season.

BOSTON U. (3-7)

When youre leading ground-gainer, a record breaking quarterback, three starting offensive linemen and the entire defensive secondary graduates, if you're a coach, you usually start looking through the "Coach's Excuse Manual" (required reading for all mentors who wish to remain employed after losing seasons.

Not so Boston University head coach Rick Taylor.

"We should be better this year," predicted Taylor. "We're going into the season more competitive than we were a year ago. I think we'll have better balance and more experience."

Up front, offensively, the Terriers will have experience with guards John Cochran and Bob Almeida, tackle Bill Casagrande, and center Bill Welch, while the backfield features the return of lettermen Mal Najarian at tailback and Phil O'Brien at fullback. Last year, Nadjarian compiled 500 yards and a 4.7 average but the Terrier sophomore was extra prolific over the last four games of the season, notching 455 of those 500 then. O'Brien was lightly used (to run, anyway) but managed 90 yards in 21 bursts, a 4.3-yard average.

Boston University's best depth could be in the receiving corps where only two of the six ends/flankers who lettered have graduated. Those who will return include tight ends Jim Sturgis (13 catches for 145 yards) and Pete Smolenski (6/72), spread end Mike Lonneman (15/185) and flanker Greg Jones (19/294).

That leaves only one position. . .and the key one at that — quarterback. The only veteran back is Art Smedberg, who lettered two years ago but failed to earn his monogram in 1977. Other possibilities for the job include Paul Coucci and Jim Jensen, and excellent prospect who sat out last year with injuries.

One good and proven offensive weapon is kicker Ron Verrilli, who booted eight-of-19 field goals and 11-of-14 extra points.

Defensively, the Terriers lose only one starter aside from the afforementioned three backs.

The line is headed by Sam Stepney, one of the Yankee Conference's best. Joining him at end is dependable Neil McGrath. Mike DeGenora and Tom Pierzga, the latter an offensive tackle in '77, are the best bets for tackle.

Last year the Terriers went with freshmen and sophomores at linebacker, and while they often made rookie mistakes, all are better for the playing time and invaluable experience gained. There are six who played extensively, Wayne Clark, Stan Dargan, Brian Pagliaro, Joe Gregos, Omar Lopez, and Mike Kelleher.

Dyke Hoy is the lone returnee in the secondary so that, along with quarterback, has been Taylor's biggest concern.

"I'm cautiously optimistic about the season," concludes Taylor.

MAINE (3-7)

Coach Jack Bicknell has lost nearly all his offense of a year ago with the graduation of quarterback Jack Cosgrove, running back Rudy DiPietro and wide receiver Rich McCormick. Since Bicknell's defense yielded 300 points last year, Black Bear prospects for the Yankee Conference do not appear to be bright.

Cosgrove hurled six TDs among his 1,-330 aerial yards while DiPietro became Maine's all-time leading ground gainer with 896 rushing yards. McCormick

headed up the receiving corps with 20 receptions.

Tony Trafton, who saw limited action last year, likely will inherit the signal-caller's role, but the running back situation appears to be an even greater problem. Besides DiPietro, Maine has lost Peter Keenan and James Hood, the Nos. 2 and 3 backs. Returners include Bill Blake, John Marquis and Chris Scontras, but the trio rushed a total of but 17 times last year.

There are just as many holes among the receivers. The top four from '77 are gone, leaving tight end Mike Hodgson as the most experienced.

Up front, Dave Secino, the team's best blocker, has walked the commencement line, but starters like Rick Leonard, John King and Bill Leroy return.

There is some experience on the defensive line but the returnees will have to do a better job than in '77 when four opponents scored over 40 points (one of them over 50). Tom Warren, Jay Kelly, Joe Lipinsky and Tom Keahon are the familiar names up front.

Chris Keating is a mainstay at linebacker, and probably the team's best athlete.

Mike Gerber leads all candidates at monsterback while Dave Harrison is tops at safety. Mike Cosgrove, Rich Flanders and Bob LaBerge have experience at the corners. Harrison was the leading thief last year, picking off four for 83 yards.

Steve Wood returns as the punter with Hodgson in charge of placements.

CONNECTICUT (1-10)

Despite an offense that could score only 84 points last year and a defense that surrendered 290, coach Walt Nadzak expects this year's edition of the Huskies to be "much improved" over the unit that produced a 1-10 mark in his first coaching year at U. Conn.

Nadzak says the team's early season strength should be on defense, where a solid nucleus of lettermen return. The top defenders are linebacker Dennis O'Connell (123 tackles to pace the club) and sophomore end Mark Flood, the leader in sacks last year with eight).

Bolstering the offense will be two promising freshmen — quarterback Ken Sweitzer, Connecticut's High School Player of the Year, and Raymond James, a 9.4 sprinter rated the top running back in Louisiana.

Also back will be junior running back Robin Anderson, the Huskies' leading rusher in '77. Anderson amassed 487 yards on the ground (3.9 avg.) and was second on the team in receiving with 15 catches for 151 yards. Other receivers include Al Chaney and Pete Przekop.

U. Conn.'s line will be paced by veteran guard Tony Catapano with Warren Nesteruk his running mate on the other side. Bill Leahy, Tom Ney and Jim Raleigh provide depth at center with Frank Graziano and Derek Henderson penciled in at tackle.

Joining Flood along the defensive front will be end Scott Nier, tackles Steve Beal, Joe Kalinowski and Joe Konecny and guard Dan Coleman.

O'Connell heads up the linebacking corps with Tony Volpe the mainstay in the secondary.

Connecticut could move the ball neither through the air nor on the ground last year. The Huskies averaged just 2.9 yards per rush and connected on under 43 percent of their aerials. The addition of Sweitzer and James could put some oomph in the Huskie attack.

"We'll have some more speed and quickness offensively," promises Nadzak.

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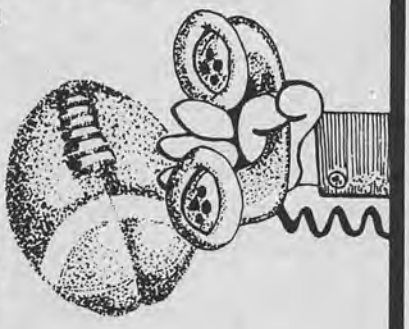

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Middle Atlantic

LEHIGH (12-2)

What do you do for an encore?

Coach John Whitehead's Engineers did it all last yeark winning 12 of 14 games enroute to the Division II National Championship while setting countless school marks for excellence.

But the talent well ebbs and flows and the major concern of Whitehead now is to keep from being washed away along with his graduated seniors.

The reconstruction problem is acute. For starters, there's the dilemma of replacing All-America quarterback Mike Rieker. How good was Rieker? Well, all he did last year was complete 184 of 316 passes for 3,152 yards and 31 touchdowns.

On the plus side, there are 29 letterman returning (16 on offense and 13 on defense) including All-America split end Steve Kreider and virtually his entire offensive starting line, but always the big question comes to the surface: Can a replacement be found for Rieker?

Kreider caught 72 passes in 14 games last season for 1,567 yards and 19 touchdowns. Can someone, besides Rieker, get the ball to him so successfully in 1978? Eighteen lettermen, including Rieker, will be missing this fall, among them starting offensive halfbacks Dave Aprill and Lennie Daniels, starting guards Tom Stine and Jim Schulze, star defensive ends Greg Clark and Glenn Skola, starting defensive backs Pete Fenton and Steve Hefele and starting linebacker Keith Frederick.

On the "return" side Whitehead has starting fullback Matt Ricketson, starting ends Kreider (split) and Don Van Orden (tight), starting offensive tackles Andy Vandergrift and Dave Melone, starting center Rick Adams, and regulars on defense like tackle Eric Merrill, linebackers Jim McCormick and Bill Bradley, and backs Dale Visokey and Carl Reese.

The need for an effective quarterback is reflected in last year's statistics which reveal that Lehigh had nearly 800 more yards passing than rushing. And while the rushing load was generally shared—six backs gained between 140 and 485 yards—the passing game was a one-man show. Besides Rieker, only Rich Andrew and Jeff Bernstein saw any action—limited at that. Andrew completed 11 of 19 passes for 161 yards and three-of-four of 31 yards and one score. Also in the running this year is Bill Glenn.

DELAWARE (6-3-1)

Coach Tubby Raymond's Blue Hens, a Division II power almost as long as the duPont family has had influence in the state, ventured out into Division I last year and hardly suffered a ruffled feather. In fact, the Hens didn't just pick on a weak sister, oh no, they tackled a real bully, undefeated Colgate. But by the time the smoke had cleared, the Red Raiders were no longer undefeated and the Blue Hens were no longer blue.

And there's little reason to think that Delaware's winning tradition won't continue. Back to insure that the Blue Hens maintain their grip on things is quarterback Jeff Komlo. Komlo has been at the hub of Delaware football ever since taking over the signal-caller's role in his sophomore year when he earned All-East Rookie of the Year honors.

Komlo displayed his talents against Colgate, firing a 75-yard TD strike that broke the backs of the Red Raiders.

You can also be sure that Komlo will be well supported. Last year Raymond had to rebuild the offensive line. This year the construction is complete.

Defensively, the Blue Hens are always tough and 1978 shouldn't be much different than previous Delaware editions.

GETTYSBURG (3-7)

Coach Barry Streeter, elevated to the head mentor's spot when Joe Sabol decided to take a teaching post at Norwich University, will make some changes in his first year at the helm of the Bullets. The offensive system, particularly, will have a new look, switching to the Delaware Wing-T, an alignment Streeter feels is more suitable to his personnel.

The strength of this force will be a veteran offensive line headed up by guards John Cavolo and Zachary Osborne and tackles Mike Going and Jay Jordan. Center is the only position in doubt. Robert Scardino will get first crack with Kevin Doyle and Matthew Victor also in the running.

The tight end position is solid with the return of Robert Regan and Edward Williams. Regan had 12 grabs last year, Williams eight.

"There will be times when we will go with two tight ends," reveals Streetcar, "and I'll need both of them."

Out wide should be flanker James Sims, who had 21 catches for 221 yards and a touchdown last year, with Ken Howard the likely starter at split end (when Streeter doesn't use two tight ends).

With Mike Ryan gone, the quarterback job is up for grabs. However, Bob LeComte will get first crack at it since he was the backup man last year. In reserve are John Murphy and Bill Wagner.

Jim Bixby, the Bullets' leading ground gainer from a year ago, returns to the fullback spot. He averaged 3.5 yards per carry in 1977. Dave Natale, the team's second leading rusher, won't return and Streeter will choose among many candidates for a replacement.

Streeter is hopeful his revamped offense can produce more points than last year's meager output of 83.

Defensively, the unit will be built around linebacker Dick Burke and cornerback Rick Rubio. Rubio led the team in interceptions.

The line has lost ends Jim Sperry and Hank Willard but tackles Dick Darian and Craig Swanson are back.

Joining Burke at linebacker are Richard Swartz, Tom Thurber, Tom Librizzi and Ken Wiblitzhouser.

Tim Chatburn is another veteran in the secondary.

LAFAYETTE (5-6)

With the loss of 25 lettermen to graduation—including six starters on offense and six on defense—head coach Neil Putnam is facing a major rebuilding season with this year's edition of the Leopards.

Defense will be the big question mark for Putnam, as his interior line and linebacking corps have been decimated by graduation. In addition, key personnel in the skill positions on offense—including pro prospect Rob Stewart, who led the assault on the Lafayette record book in '77—must also be replaced.

The only two returnees on the defensive front are end Tim Gerhart and tackle Jon Best.

Lafayette should be extremely strong in the defensive secondary. Returning for the Leopards are safety Jim Medes, cornerback David Shea and strong safety Bob Rasp. Steve Boyanoski will likely get the remaining spot.

In spite of the fact that six starters are gone from the '77 Leopard offense—which set 11 school offensive marks a year ago—Putnam remains optimistic about the offensive outlook.

Gary Uzelac, the number two man behind Stewart before being sidelined with a shoulder separation, will battle Mike Fritz and Scott Sautter for the quarterback spot. Sautter showed good moves handling the option last year while Fritz impressed with his passing.

John Orrico has graduated, but depth is still present in the backfield. Angelo Giombetti brings great speed and power to tailback while Brian Musician, a two-year starter, returns to fullback.

Max Shoemaker, the top receiver last year with 42 grabs, returns to wingback with Rich Smith set at tight end. Sam Clement will man the split end assignment.

Center Jack Green will anchor the offensive line along with returning starting guard Tim Uglow. Dan Everett and/or Andy Bramnick will be on the other side. Ned Roebuck, a former center, has been switched to tackle with the other spot going to Kevin Lohr.

Dave Heverling, an All-East selection, returns for the placements with Dave Page in charge of punting.

BUCKNELL (4-5)

"This year we're going to do the same things we have been doing," says coach Bob Curtis. "We're just going to try to do them better."

Last year's top offensive backfield performers are all back for the 1978 season, with the very important exception of MVP halfback Vince Woody, the Bisons' second leading ground gainer, top pass receiver, and ace punt and kickoff return artist.

The leading 1977 rusher, Joel Boyd, who earned 675 yards, has been switched to Woody's halfback slot to allow Paul D'Aloia and Kevin Finnegan a shot at the fullback position.

Glyn Lipp, a converted defensive back who took the reins of the new Wing-T last year, will retain the quarterback spot after hitting 58 of 114 passes for 690 yards and five TDs.

The Bisons will rebuild their offensive line around center Jim Tomeo and tackle Mike McDonald, the only two starters back from last year. Tom Henry looks like the favorite for the open tackle spot with a host of aspirants vying for the guard vacancies.

Brian Shaffer, Paul Sant'Ambrogio and Mike Cody provide the nucleus of a fine receiving corps with Calvin Lawrence lending speed to the attack. Shaffer had 18 grabs last year, one less than the departed Woody.

Defensively, the Bisons will miss the services of end Dave Devonshuk, a tri-captain last year. Bruce Keltie, a late season starter at end last year, is pretty well set in that position but there'll be a lot of competition among Dave Collins, Fred Dunlap, Dave Hibbard, and Al Wegener for starting honors on the other side.

Meanwhile, last year's two leading tacklers, linebackers John Cieslewicz and Joel Kreider, are expected to play important roles in Bucknell's second line of defense. Don Kelley is another returning starter.

"We're losing two key people in the secondary," admits Curtis, "but a lot of young people were in there last year getting the experience." The Bisons return three backs, Gary Vidmer, Craig Morrison and Mike Cortez, who have plenty of experience.

Mid-America

BALL STATE (9-2)

With the return of 16 regulars from the highest scoring team in Mid-American Conference history, about the only new faces in the Ball State University football program during the 1978 campaign will belong to rookie head coach Dwight Wallace and his staff.

Ball State will enter the '78 schedule with a string of eight straight victories. In fact, the Cardinals have been particularly productive over the past three and a half years, winning 31 of 37. A one-point loss to Kent State denied the Cardinals a share of the MAC title with Miami in 1977.

Wallace, who left Bill Mallory's staff at Colorado to replace Dave McClain (he's moved on to Wisconsin), will welcome back seven starters from last year's offense which established a Mid-Am mark with 377 points and ranked eighth in the nation with an average of 34.5 points per outing.

The Ball State attack again will feature the Dave Wilson-to-Rick Morrison connection, one of the nation's top passing combinations. Wilson completed 115 of 177 passes for 1,589 yards and 17 touchdowns, led the nation's top 70 passer's in accuracy with a .650 percentage, and set a conference record with 26 touchdowns running and passing. Morrison, a two-time all-leaguer and Associated Press honorable mention All-America, caught 59 passes to tie for fifth nationally and broke the MAC mark with 908 receiving yards.

Fullback Gary Acklin, last year's number two BSU rusher with 521 yards and eight touchdowns in just 90 carries, and Tom Broderick, the Cardinals' number three pass receiver with 13 catches, return along with three offensive linemen—guards Bruce Burke and Mark Eddy plus tackle Rick Bostater.

Offensive losses include George Jenkins, a 1,070-yard producer last year; flanker Mike Andress, who had 15 career TD grabs and 1,436 aerial yards; and a pair of All-MAC second team linemen, tackle Tim Young and center Greg Mikkelsen.

Defensively, the Cardinals will bring back nine of 11 starters, including All-MAC first team tackle Ken Kremer, who tied for second in the league with 19 tackles for losses, and all-conference second team safety Bill Stahl, who led the Mid-Am with six pass thefts.

Again joining Kremer up front will be tackle Rush Brown, middle guard Larry Williams and defensive ends Dave Matzl and Dennis Gunden. In the secondary, Stahl once more will be flanked by cornerbacks Jeff Hilles and Jon Hoke. Linebacker Bill Pindras also returns.

Departures include Hawk Maurice Harvey, an A.P. All-America honorable mention choice and MAC all star who appeared in two East-West Shrine Bowls, and linebacker Mark Holsapple.

Highlighting the kicking game will be Mark O'Connell, the league leader the past two seasons with 41.4 and 40.3 norms. Gone, however, is placekicker Jim Neddeff, who set career marks with 19 field goals and 82 extra-points.

MIAMI (10-1)

Miami's new head football coach, Tom Reed, has an oustanding nucleus of 35 lettermen, including nine offensive and six defensive starters, back from the Redskin team that went 10-1 last year enroute to the Mid-America Conference championship.

Reed, who replaced Dick Crum, now at North Carolina, plans to continue use of the veer offense that Miami installed last year. The set-up helped produced 262 points and Reed isn't about to deviate from a successful formula.

Key man in the veer is quarterback Larry Fortner, who was voted "Most Valuable" after setting four season records in '77. Fortner completed 109 passes for 1,473 yards with 15 touchdowns and a completion percentage of .586. He was intercepted only four times in 186 attempts.

Also returning are the top three rushers in running backs Mark Hunter, Kaiser Holman and Jeff Feicht. Hunter had 809 yards and a 4.8 yards-per carry average while Holman checked in at 581 and 4.4. Feicht gained 529 with a 3.5 average.

Three of the top four pass receivers return, giving the Redskins balance on the ground and in the air. Paul Warth, the tight end, led the team in receptions with 26 and scored five TDs with backup Tim Whetsel adding 17 grabs and a pair of scores. Flanker Mark Angelo had 21 catches and three touchdowns.

The line is well stocked with lettermen. Matt Mazur and Jack Streicher man the tackles with Andy Botting, Dave Crowder and Doug Noxsel holding forth at guard. Tom Mooney and Steve Ruhe are at pivot.

On defense, Reed must replace middle guard Jack Glowik, the team's statistical tackle leader. Also gone is linebacker Tom Zwayer, end Bill Palmer and deep backs Bob Young and Jeff Buchanan.

Mainstays on the line this year include end Greg Sullivan and tackles Mike Rosenberger and Dave Hatgas.

Joe Farais is a good one at linebacker, finishing second to Glowik last year in tackles.

The secondary will be paced by Pat McDermott (three interceptions in '77) and Kirk Springs.

Tom Kraus returns to handle the placement chores with Jeff Rowlands in charge of punting.

Miami's defense allowed 3.3 yards per rush last year but was better against the pass, limiting opponents to just 44 percent completions and six aerial TDs. What the Redskins did even better than that was win the close ones, to wit: 26-23 over Dayton, 21-20 over Indiana, 14-8 over Western Michigan and 12-7 over Cincinnati.

CENTRAL MICH (10-1)

When a team sets school and league records for victories, is ranked among the nation's top 10 teams in four statistical categories and finishes with one of the best won-lost marks in the nation's Division I ranks, what can 34 returning lettermen and 12 starters do for an encore? Well, for one thing, they can try and win the Mid-America Conference title.

That's right. Despite all those glittering stats, Central Michigan did not win the MAC crown last year. Roy Kramer's Chippewas had a 7-1 MAC mark, but a 28-12 ambush at Ball State proved CMU's downfall as Miami won the conference crown despite two less victories. The answer to this year's MAC puzzle should come very early—or at least that's the way the Redskins and Chips would like it—when CMU faces off with Miami in Oxford.

The return of eight starters among the 21 defensive lettermen indicates the Chippewas should be strong, again, at stopping the opposition. They were fourth in total defense, seventh in rushing defense nationally last year and led the MAC in both categories in addition to scoring defense.

Among the returnees will be linebacker Bryan Gross, tackle Steve Smallbone, end Kevin Collins and returning All-MAC halfback Vondell Robertson who also tied for seventh nationally in punt returns (12.2). Also on hand will be Carl Word, Rick Waters and Robert Jackson, the latter trio all defensive backs.

"Our defense certainly is where our strength lies," admits Kramer. "If we're going to be a contender, our defense has to carry us early in the season."

Offensive losses, however, have been heavy, and only four starters are back from last year's record-breaking unit.

The backfield, in particular, has been ravaged. Gary Hogeboom will be the new quarterback with Mark Neiderquill at tailback and Will Young at upback. None started last year.

Swingback Mike Ball and split end Brian Blank are excellent receivers and it will be up to Hogeboom to get them the ball. Tim Parker will be the new tight end.

Tim Sopha is a second-team All-MAC honoree at guard and tackle Chuck Harbin also is a good one, but the other line spots are up for grabs.

Perhaps Kramer's best offensive weapon will be the instep of soccer-style kicker Rade Savich who holds most CMU scoring marks.

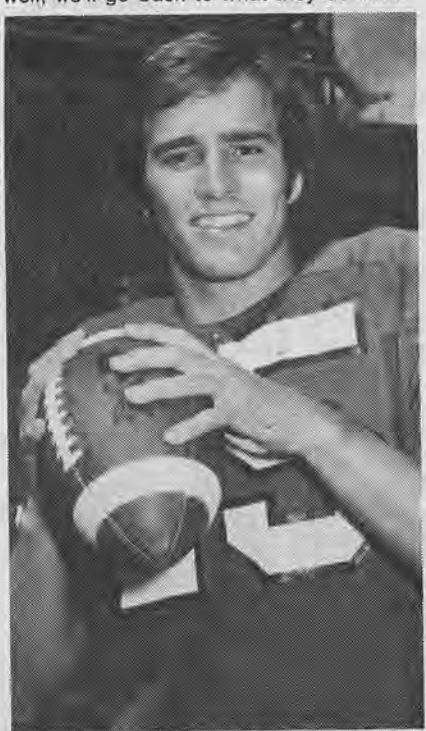
EASTERN MICH (8-3)

Mike Stock has a tough act to follow.

After leading the Eastern Michigan football team to an 8-3 record in 1977 and Mid-American Conference "Coach of the Year" honors, head grid coach Ed Chlebek left to pilot the Boston College Eagles.

Chlebek's departure prompted the hiring of Stock, a University of Wisconsin assistant.

"I'm really happy to have the opportunity to lead the EMU football program," said Stock, whose name, at least, is easier to deal with than Chlebek's. "We have a strong nucleus of players returning. We'll adapt to what they do best. Natrually I have my own ideas, but if they don't work out well, we'll go back to what they do best."



Dave Wilson is BSU aerial wizard.

The prospects for 1978 look like a good news-bad news joke.

The bad news is that Stock will have to find replacements for quarterback Steve Raklovits, who graduated with nearly every EMU passing mark, and two-time All-MAC and third-team All-America defensive back Ron Johnson.

The good news is that Stock can call on 35 returning letter winners including three first-team and one second-team All-MAC performers.

The backfield will look to halfback Bobby Windom, a first-team All-MAC performer last year after gaining an EMU record 1,322 yards in '77. Windom is the fifth leading returning rusher in the nation and also the top Huron scorer last year with 10 touchdowns. He had a 5.4-yards per carry average.

Fullback Doug Crisan also should ease the entrance of quarterback Burt Beany. Crissan had 644 yards as the Hurons' second leading dasher.

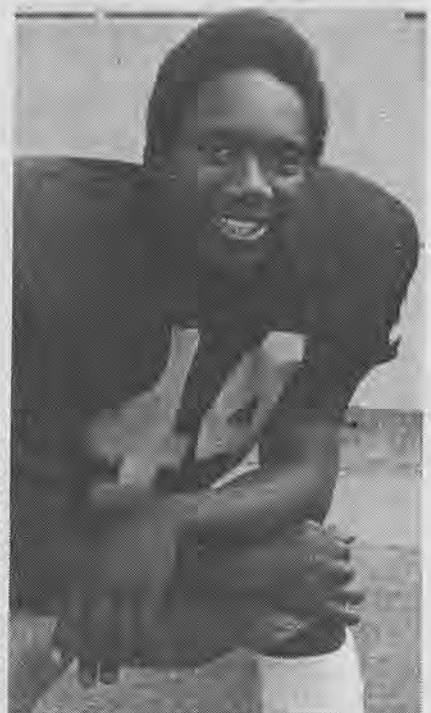
Split end Tom Parm is another who will aid in the QB transition. Parm caught 34 balls last year and had a 16.3-yard average.

Al Chapman is the incumbent at tight end and the line also returns guards Rollie Hansen and Marty Kennedy. Dave Hoover is a holdover at one tackle with Mike Williams the likely starter now at the other spot. Mike Crowell looks like the new center.

Defensively, the Hurons return six starters, headed by end Tom Williams who led the MAC in tackles for a loss with 22 for 102 yards and was named first-team all-conference. Tackle Kevin Wilkinson was a second-team MAC choice and should combine with Williams to harass enemy quarterbacks.

Larry Tiller and Ray Welch make linebacking a plus but only safety Terry Thames returns to the secondary.

Craig Motzer, who set an EMU single game record with four field goals last year, returns for the placements. Rick Baker is back as punter but improvement is expected over last year's 31.8-yard average.



Jerome Persell: WMU ground hog.

KENT STATE (6-5)

Newly appointed head football coach Ron Blackledge has 36 lettermen returning, but the loss of six 1977 All-Conference players could make his maiden voyage anything but smooth sailing.

Question marks saddle such positions as quarterback, wide receiver, defensive tackle, safety and both kicking spots.

Despite being an offensive football star in high school and college, and serving as offensive coordinator last fall for Kent, Blackledge still believes in the primary importance of defense. "Like most head coaches, I will start with defense; one that is quick and can get to the ball," he says.

Eight starters return to the "Banshee" defense, a Gaelic identity of enthusiastic defenders who became known for their hard-hitting ability last season. Included in the eight returnees are three linebackers with eight years of starting experience.

Leading the linebacking corps is two-time All-MAC middle man Jack Lazor, the leading tackler (197) in the Mid-America Conference. He'll be joined by outsiders Ben Batton and Mike McKibben.

Up front, in KSU's 4-3 defense, three starters return but the Flashes must replace All-MAC tackle Mike Zele. The star of this year's front four should be Bob Wallace who led the team int ackles for losses (19), sacks (seven) and fumble recoveries (four). Dave Badzik and Andre Lanier return to starting terminal positions with Bill Dudash given the best chance of moving in at tackle.

In the secondary, Harry Liggins, the team's top thief with a trio of interceptions, and Woodie Thompson are the incumbents at the corners. Bill Pakan, Mickey Mund and Jeff Sisterhen are the leading candidates for the safety jobs.

Soph quarterback Mike Shaughnessy holds the key to the Flashes' offense. Shaughnessy came on late last year and continued improvement is expected.

The running game will be paced by Mike McQueen and Doug West who flip-flop between fullback and halfback. McQueen is the top returning rusher (574 yards).

A big problem is finding a replacement for Kim Featsent, the school's all-time receiver, and Keith Credit, a two-year starter. Jack Curley and converted end Andy Ferree are the favorites at the wide receiver and flanker spots, respectively. Sam Moore returns to hold down the tight end post.

All-MAC tackle Tom Jesko leads a young offensive line that features three starters. Jeff Hrynya anchors the unit at center with Marvin Hall and Kurt Pakan at the guards. Tom Wendling, a former guard who was redshirted, will try out at tackle.

Kent State must also replace the proponents of the kicking game as two-time All-MAC placekicker Paul Marchese and punter Jim Posipanka have graduated.

WESTERN MICHIGAN (4-7)

Last year much was predicted for Western Michigan. A Mid-America Conference title, some said, was in the offering. But 22 surgeries and 11 games later coach Elliott Uzelac and his Broncos had a 4-7 mark (3-5) in the league), and a bunch of ifs, buts and maybees.

That year could prove to be a blessing in disguise for 1978, since many players saw plenty of unexpected playing itme. In all, 31 lettermen are back for this year's campaign.

Western boasts one of the nation's top collegians in tailback Jerome Persell. His accomplishments in the last two years are considerable — second-team Associated Press All-America in 1977 and a third-teamer in 1976, twice MAC "Offensive Player of the Year," twice league rushing and scoring leader, No. 2 national rusher and scorer in 1976 and fourth and eighth in these departments as a junior in 1977.

Persell gained 1,505 yards in 1976 and tallied 19 TDs and then picked up 1,339 yards and scored 14 times next year, despite operating behind an offensive line that was minus three starters by mid-year. Persell had a 5.1-yards per carry average.

Joining Persell in the backfield will be fullback Doug Lincoln, a 423-yard, 4.4 producer, and wingback Craig Frazier, a home run threat with blazing speed. Frazier had 319 yards on 13 pass receptions and returned five kickoffs for another 184 markers. Junior quarterback Albert Little will get the nod at signal-caller after completing 50 of 121 passes for 802 yards last year. While his percentage was not high, he was intercepted only five times and should improve off his first full year of quarterback duty.

There is a great deal of experience along the offensive front wall. Those expected to make a contribution include centers Dave Gigli and Mark Lootens, guards Don Leigh, Bob Johnson, and Lou Kollar, and tackles Mark Schenk, Ron Beasse and Bud Sitko.

Key defensive returnees include linebacker Jim McVay, strong safety Greg Williams, who moonlights as the team's punt returner, ends Bob Compton and Gene Roger, cornerbacks Pat Humes and George Bullock and free safety Morris Davenport.

Last year, Western outscored the opposition by a 261-231 tag but lost too many close games and had too many key injuries to have a winning season. Uzelac is hoping the pundulum swings back his way this year.

BOWLING GREEN (5-7)

Mark Miller, after four spectacular years as Bowling Green quarterback, finally has graduated, but coach Denny Stoltz still feels the Falcons' strength still will be on offense.

Despite losing six starters from the unit that scored 275 points, Stoltz has a true "big play" artist returning in Jeff Groth, flanker. Dubbed "the franchise," Groth got his hands on the ball 63 times last year and averaged 17.2 yards every time he touched the pigskin. He led the conference with a 17.8 yards-per-catch average while hauling in 39 passes for 693 yards. Included among his 1,081 yards were nine running plays for 145 yards (16.1 ave.), five punt returns for 145 yards (16.1 avg.) and 10 kickoff returns for 178 yards (17.8).

When Stoltz speaks of Bowling Green's "Growth" development, the play-on-words is intentional. Groth will be the man around which the Falcons will fly. Getting him the ball will be the major task of Mike Wright, Miller's understudy last year. Wright proved a better runner than passer last year, scampering to the tune of 6.6 yards-per carry, but completed just eight of 20 aerials.

If Wright is to bloom as a passer, it should be this year, for, besides Groth, talented Willie Matthews also returns to bolster the receiving corps. Matthews hauled in 35 passes last year.

BG's freshman running hack combination, the "elephant backfield" of 225-pound tailback John Park and 215-pound Dave Windatt combined for 844 yards and will return as experienced sophomores. Stoltz is looking for some outside speed, too, to make the straight ahead game work.

The offensive line must be rebuilt with center Joe Studer and guard Kip Kane as the only holdover starters.

If the Falcons are to get back on the winning side, the defense must be completely overhauled. After a good start, the defense simply couldn't stop anybody down the stretch and 296 points were rung up on the scoreboard.

"We have just got to rethink our defense from the beginning," admits Stoltz. "We've got to find the right players for the right positions. Right now we just don't have enough aggressive and competitive football players to be a top contender for our league championship."

Certain to be one of the key players on defense is free safety Dirk Abernathy. "He could be one of the best defensive backs in football," claims Stoltz. Abernathy had 100 tackles last year. Another good one is soph Joe Merritt, the strong safety.

Bowling Green must find a new punter while John Spengler figures to again be the place-kicking specialist.

NO. ILLINOIS (3-8)

Prospects for a winning season (first in five years) finally are somewhat promising at Northern Illinois University. The Huskies of coach Pat Culpepper, who will enter his third campaign as head man at NIU, return 31 lettermen, including 18 starters from the team that won three of its last four games in 1977.

After three intensified years of recruiting, plus a successful performance the final month of the '77 campaign, Culpepper is optimistic about the Huskies' chances to better last season's eighth place Mid-America Conference finish.

Offensively, the running burden will be carried by sophomore Allen Ross, a second-team All-MAC selection as a freshman. He figures to improve his 1977 record-shattering rushing performance of 1,043 yards, a year in which he became only the eighth freshman in NCAA history to go over the magic 1,000-yard plateau. Ross closed out the season with a spectacular 254-yard game against Ohio University.

It there's a plot to concentrate on Ross, there's always blocking fullback Carl Fisher, who hit for 659 yards himself.

There's also the passing combination of quarterback Pete Kraker-to- split end Dave Petzke to keep the defense off Ross' back. That duo collaborated on five touchdowns as Petzke caught 57 of Kraker's 103 completions for 746 yards, second best in the MAC and seventh best in the country.

In addition, the offensive line returns intact with the exception of guard Randy Shelton, and tight end Scott Paplham, who shared starting assignments with freshman Jim Latanski. Regulars include Scott Crooks, Jerry Parker, Randy Clark, Paul Hudetz and Dan Rosado.

The defense will be led by linebacker Frank Lewandowski, and All-Mid-America Conference choice last fall who was in on 179 tackles, cornerback Jack Wilson and defensive end Sam Boskovich, both second team picks last year.

Starters are back at every position with the exception of a tackle, linebacker and cornerback. But both these areas will be handled by reserve lettermen with considerable experience.

The secondary, composed of cornerbacks Wilson and reserve Kevin Kristic and safeties Dave Petway and Mark Stuart was especially effective last fall, ranking third in the nation with a yield of only 88.5 yards per game.

Jim Hannula and Rome Moga handle the kicking. Hannula booted the ball 70 times last year for a 39.1 average while Moga connected on 10-of-11 extra points and six-of-14 field goals.

OHIO (1-10)

For the second time in his 21-year coaching career at Ohio University, coach Bill Hess will be picking up the pieces and rebuilding for the future following a disastrous 1-10 season.

"We will be working hard to pick up the pieces, find a new quarterback, rebuild a defense and return to respectability," said the coach who was eighth in the nation last fall among active major college coaches, with 106 wins.

Thirty-three lettermen, 14 of whom started last fall (seven on each unit), return to aid in the reconstruction. However, Ohio must do without quarterback Andy Vetter, who ran for 11 scores and passed for 10 more, and was first team All-Mac.

Vetter's successor is the main business at hand for Hess and his staff. Ohio's backup, Steve Moss, also has graduated, leaving inexperienced Mike Scimeca, Mickey Jordan and Randy. Hockberg to fight it out. Hess won't rule out a freshman, either.

Both starting running backs return in tailback Kevin Babcock, a 585-yard (4.0) producer, and fullback John Gamble who assumed a starter's role in the middle of his freshman season last year. Gamble netted 395 yards and had a 3.9-yards per carry average. Rich Crislip backs both of them up.

The entire receiving corps returns, headed by Nigel Turpin and Mark Geisler who between them caught 46 and 42, respectively. Turpin had more yards (624 to 489), but Geisler hit paydirt more often (five to two). Back too, are Randy Perkins (19 catches), Babcock (19) and John Summers (12).

The offensive line will be bulwarked by guard Bob Barrow, a Mid-America Conference honors candidate, at guard. He'll be joined by center Don Puthoff and tackle Steve Milano. Lettermen Mark Herzick (tackle) and Mike Douglas (guard) should move into starting roles this year.

The real improvement, though, must come on defense where the injury-riddled Bobcats gave up 361 points in 1977, almost 33 per game. Five starters must be replaced, but there must also be some overall strengthening if Ohio is to improve.

The unit will be paced by end Steve Groves, a very, very good one who was injured in the opener and required knee surgery. He'll be joined by Bill Simpson, who, like Groves, felt the surgeon's knife. Moving in with them will be Ohio's top stopper from last year, linebacker Tedd Lucas. Jerry Fultz, Ohio heavyweight wrestler, plays tackle and strengthens the line.

Thee Lemon, Joe Callan and Jim Givens, the former two hurt last year, form the nucleus of the secondary.

Punter and placekicker Steve Green will be back for his senior year after averaging 39.7-yards per punt while connecting on 23-of-24 PATs and two-of-seven FGs.

TOLEDO (2-9)

It's difficult to be very optimistic about Rocket chances for 1978. Coach Chuck Stobart says very realistically, "Going into spring practice we are not as good a team as the one that came out of spring practice a year ago . . . not nearly as good." When you consider that Toledo's material of last spring went on to produce a lowly 2-9 record in the fall, the lack of optimism about 1978 is understandable.

Last year's UT team had very few team strengths. Offensively, about the only thing the Rockets did with some consistency was rush the football. The team netted 1,-941 rushing yards and scored 11 of its 15 touchdowns on the ground. The air game, for a decade a Rocket strong point, was almost non-existent. Toledo passers connected on only 36 percent of their throws and netted just 691 yards and three touchdowns.

So it is that Stobart may turn to many younger players this season, to wit, sophomore Kevin Gandee or junior Frank Luketich at quarterback.

The ground forces will be led again by tailback Mike Alston, the Rockets' leading rusher in '77. Alston rambled for 772 yards on 154 carries, a 5.0 yard average and scored two touchdowns. Also returning is Skip McCulley, the fullback who wound up second to Alston with 417 yards in 95 attempts for a 4.4 yard norm. On hand, too, are Butch Perry and Scott Alexander, the Nos. 3 and 4 men, to provide the depth.

Mike Sherman, the tight end, is back for his senior year but wide receiver Frank Jarm must be replaced (probably by Dan Cox who caught eight passes for 169 yards—21.1 average—as a freshman last season).

Up front, the Rockets were hit hardest of all. Only guard Marty Minna returns and there are no lettermen at all for tackle or center available.

Very few, if any, positions are set with personnel guaranteed on defense. The Rockets finished last in the Mid-America Conference in 1978 in rushing defense and next to last in scoring defense.

Defensive end Joe Conroy and tackle Jon Gotwald are the only defenders who might fall into sure-shot category. Conroy finished second in total tackles last fall and led the team in sacks. He also led in fumble recoveries for four. Gotwald was fourth in total tackles and second in sacks.

Such a lack of established performers makes it obvious that coach Stobart will have to depend heavily on untested sophomores and upon what he feels was an excellent crop of freshman recruits.

"We're going to have to count on our freshmen for a lot of quick help," admits Stobart. "This is truly a rebuilding year. We're starting from the bottom up."

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CHATTANOOGA (9-1-1)

Former New York Giant running back and University of Tennessee-Chattanooga coach Joe Morrison welcomes back 17 starters, including seven from the high octane offense that finished sixth in the nation in rushing offense last year (5.0 yards per carry, 302 yards per game).

Quarterback Tony Merendino will return to direct the attack, handing off to sophomore running backs Mike Smith (1,067 net rushing, 6.2 ypc) and Gwain Durden (1,045 net rushing, 6.3 ypc). Smith and Durden became only the eighth duo in NCAA history to rush over 1,000 yards each in the same season.

Merendino will be running and passing behind a veteran line. Paul Edmonson was tabbed by the Associated Press as a honorable mention All-America at tackle in addition to copping All-Southern Conference laurels. Guard Joe Petosa also garnered all-league honors.

Tight end Jim Schoepfer led all UTC receivers, in 1977 with 16 receptions for 277 yards, and, thanks to a hardship ruling in his favor, he also returns.

The Mocs must find a center and two more receivers, but otherwise look set offensively.

Defensively, the Mocs lose only one starter from last year, cornerback Stan Eller.

Overall depth in the front line, once a problem for UTC, should be a plus in 1978. Defensive coordinator Joe Lee Dunn feels he has six capable linemen who can play for anyone. They are conference tackle Ronnie Powe, nose guards Jim Johnson and John Creager and tackles Marty Duncan, Jacob Burney and Tim Franklin.

All-Conference free safety Kenny Mitchell, who doubles as a punt return specialist, heads up the secondary. Tom Brackett, Wayne Crittenden and David McKinney complete the quartet with help from Eric Smith and Sam Hudson. Hudson may be moved to linebacker where Kurt Woerner and Danny Emery return as proven starters.

Ken Hall and Ray Brandt are starting ends with Frank Jordan and Terry Waters providing the depth.

Freshman walk-on Tony Ball also returns after leading the nation in kickoff returns last year. Ball led all Division I returnees with a 36.4-yard average. Also returning is Greg Cater, another "find." Cater punted for a 41.8-yard average and was all-league.

Mitchell, as mentioned previously, is quite a punt returner. Last year he brought back 20 for 280 yards while intercepting six passes in his secondary role.

If the Moccasins have a weakness it is in the placement area. UTC field goal kickers converted just seven of 25 field goal attempts in 1977.

VMI (7-4)

Last year was a very good one for VMI as the Keydets rolled to a 7-4 mark, captured a share of the Southern Conference Title and placed seven members on the League's all-star team.

There is no arguing that the Keydets are going to be hurt by graduation, but there is also much reason for optimism with seven returning defensive starters and six back on offense.

Three-fourths of the starting Keydet offensive backfield has graduated, and that is where head coach Bob Thalman must devote most of his attention. Gone is Andre Gibson, the VMI single-season rushing leader and an All-Southern team honoree. Gibson rambled for 1,218 yards last year, over half the team's output. Attempting to pick up the slack will be a trio of aspirants, Jeff Washington, Butch Hostetter, and Jeff White. Further complicating the refurbishing of the ground game is the loss of fullback Steve Oddi, the team's leading scorer in '77. Joe Robinson is the heir apparent here. The third backfield member lost to graduation may be the toughest of all to replace — flanker Jimmy Garnett, who also brought back kickoffs and punts in addition to leading the team in receptions. Three lettermen are in the running for that position, Larry Williams, Jeff McLean and Carl Jackson.

The backfield news, however, is not all bad. Quarterback Robby Clark, a 51 percent passer, returns to call signals.

Four of five interior line spots for 1978 appear to be set. Three tackles who have started in the past — Bob Bookmiller, Alan Soltis and John Shuman — all return, and it seems likely that one of them will move into one of the guard spots left open by the graduation of all-conference Tom Replogle and Jim Reynolds. Craig Cox is solid at the pivot. The tight end position also is well set with Greg Weaver (eight catches for 144 yards and an 18.0 avg.) returning.

The problem area on defense is at tackle where Ned Stepanovich and Dutch Goddard, three-year starters and all-conference selections, have departed, leaving only three lettermen with limited experience to take their places. Tommy Earle, Joe Benda and Pat McCarthy will vie for the two spots.

Jeff Morgan returns to man the middle guard slot, with Tim Cox on one end. Mark McLean, Nick Collins and Richard Bates will be fighting for the other end position.

Glen Jones, the team's inspirational leader, has walked the commencement line, so Tony Zoetis and Jim Toth will have to fill in. The other side is set with Dale Ogg returning.

Despite the loss of Greg Beck, the secondary returns two cornerbacks and two safeties who have all been starters — all-conference selection Gary McNeal and Tony Hamilton at cornerback, and Mike Alston and Walt Bellamy at safety.

Craig Jones returns in the role of placekicker, but a punter must be developed.

W. CAROLINA (6-4-1)

Western Carolina will enter the 1978 football season with a more experienced squad and five-game winning streak, but without the services of tailback Darrell Lipford and split end Wayne Tolleson, both of which were national offensive leaders last season.

Lipford, the Southern Conference Football Player of the Year, rushed for 4,089 career yards and finished second in the nation in scoring last season with a 9.8 average. Tolleson led the nation in pass receiving with 73 catches for 1,101 yards and finished as the runner-up to Lipford as league player of the year.

As opposed to 1977, WCU will not be as deep at the skilled positions, but should have better overall depth. Western lost only seven seniors off last season's 6-4-1 team that finished 2-2-1 in the Southern Conference.

Back will be quarterback Mike Pusey, the 8th best total offense producer and 10th best passer returning in Division I. Pusey hit 140 or 248 passes last year for 1,939 yards and 13 touchdowns.

WCU returns 18 of 22 starters from last season, losing just one starter off its young defensive unit which came to life late in the season.

The offensive line returns intact with guard Robbie Vannoy and center Steve Dunn leading that unit which accounted for an average of 406.5 yards per game of total offense last season.

The defensive front returns intact and the linebacking corps looks improved, though unproven. WCU's secondary was 8th in the nation last season and could also return virtually intact, dependent on a couple of starters successfully completing summer school.

Quickness, as opposed to size, will again key the Western Carolina squad.

The Cats' coaching staff appears to have had an extremely successful recruiting season and several incoming players could earn starting or number two positions.

"I think we have the potential to be challengers in the Southern Conference this season, if we can sustain our momentum and continue to improve," said WCU head coach Bob Waters, who will enter his ninth season with a 56-32-2 record.

"We have to fill some extremely important positions with the departure of Tolleson and Lipford. And, we must continue to improve the way we did near the end of last season. We must revamp our running game and make some offensive decisions. Having potential is a long way from performing successfully," said Waters.

DAVIDSON (4-6)

Last year's record was the best mark Davidson has posted since 1969, which gives you an indication of how bad things have been there. However, coach Ed Farrell expects improvement in '78 and shouldn't be disappointed.

For the first time since Farrell's been at Davidson, he'll have more than 10 seniors on the squad, as there are 19 players in their fourth year. Also, he'll be missing just six lettermen from a team that included 90 performers. Farrell feels that his men need a little more confidence in themselves, and if they start believing in their ability, a winning season should be in store.

The overall experience of the defense is a bright spot. In Gary Stokes and Terrell Rhye, the Wildcats have excellent linebacking. The front wall of Davidson is comprised of several sturdy players, including Mike Hardman.

The secondary is another cheerful source of conversation for Farrell. He'll have his four starters back — Phil Gilbert, Cris Boslet, Landis Wade, and Kevin Hannah — plus Virgil Fludd, who was slated to start in '77 but was sidelined with an injury a good portion of the campaign.

Quarterback Bob McCarthy is winding up his stay at Davidson and should go out in winning fashion. He has seen considerable time the past two seasons and is being counted on heavily.

He'll have a pair of exciting running backs in Roger Walley, a 6-1, 225 bruiser who needs just 130 yards to become the Wildcats' all-time leading rusher, and sophomore Alvin Atkinson, who Farrell is very high on.

Larry Crees is a fountain of consistency at the tight end slot and sophomore Gifford Piercy is Davidson's big-play personality, something which has been lacking in its lineup.

The two top linemen are Bob Clarkson and Dave Donaldson.

The placekicking which was weak last year, will be a pivotal area. The 'Cats lost several close games because of it and if

they can shore up that area, with freshmen battling for the starting berth, Farrell might push his team beyond the break-even point.

CITADEL (5-6)

After the Citadel closed out last year with a 10-3 victory over Furman, Paladin head coach Art Baker figured he'd rather switch than fight so he left Furman and now he's calling the shots for the Cadets.

Baker, who copped co-coach of the year honors in the Southern Conference in 1973 by guiding Furman to a 7-4 mark, replaces Bobby Ross, who resigned to accept an assistant coaching post with the Kansas City Chiefs of the NFL.

Baker will have 43 of 60 lettermen returning, including eight starters on offense and six on defense.

Strength of the offense should be the corps of running backs. The top eight rushers from 1977 are all back, providing unaccustomed depth. Tailback Lyvonia Mitchell heads the list, last year rushing for 518 yards and four touchdowns with a 4.6-yard average.

Fullback San Scadlock, with 243 yards and a 3.7-yeard average, joins Mitchell with the likes of Lonnie Ford, Alvin Perkins, Tim Gaines, and Jeff Turner all providing depth.

Marty Crosby returns to his role as starting quarterback after throwing for 1,-332 yards on 49.4 percent accuracy last year. One disturbing note about Crosby's performance was 16 interceptions against just one touchdown pass.

Crosby's top receiver of 1977, split end Mike Riley, who caught 56 passes, has graduated, leaving flanker Mark Slawson as the most experienced available hand. Slawson, who led the team in punt returns, had 23 receptions last year, second only to Riley. Mark Hunt Al Major and Orion Rust, who combined for 22 grabs from the tight end position, all return.

Up front, the interior of the line is secure with center Tom Fedrick flanked by guards Bill Bloodworth and Don Rust. Both tackles have graduated, leaving Joe Landon and John Burke as the apparent heirs.

Defensively six starters return to the Citadel wide tackle six alignment. Chuck Strong, Scott Wages and Bob Reese return to starting berths with Richard Farrier and Mike Adams likely to inherit two of the open three line positions. Bob Tillman's left end position is up for grabs.

Kenny Caldwell, the team's third leading tackler, returns to one linebacker post but a replacement must be found for the graduated Felix Hooks. Keith Allen has the inside track.

Paul Gillis, the team's leading tackler, returns to safety and right halfback Kevin White also is back. Joe Harvey and/or Kevin Curry will take over for Tyrone Roper at left halfback.

FURMAN (4-5-2)

First-year coach Dick Sheridan has his work cut out for him. Twelve starters graduated from last year's club and he'll have to play a defense that is primarily untested, which usually means a lot of anxious moments when the opposition has the ball.

The Paladins return just four starters from the defensive unit as Sheridan will field a young and inexperienced unit. The secondary is perhaps the most stable group, with two-year starter Russell Gambrell tying matters together. Chris Buono and David Kelly are fine athletes and will make their presence felt.

The eight defenders in front of them won't have such luck. Tackle David Lyle saw some action in the pits last season, but he'll be surrounded by a host of new faces. Linebacker Jerry Scott is being counted on, but this position is also hurting for established players.

While the defense will struggle, the offense should make things happen. The receiving corps is the club's strong point, as Greg Laetsch, Brette Simmons and Jimmy Kiser (a former quarterback) can put a lot of pressure on opponents.

Getting them the ball will be junior QB David Henderson, who took over the starting role in the last half of the year. With more seasoning, he should turn into a pinpoint passer.

Fullback Kent Woerner is the most reliable running back, but he'll be rushing behind an unproven front line. Steve Williams, Hal Westlake, Ricky Young, and Joe Holt are some of the names there.

Sheridan's squad should have little trouble scoring points, but preventing opponents from doing the same will be his main task. If the defense should come around, he might have better than a .500 mark in his initial year of coaching at the collegiate level.

MARSHALL (2-9)

With all 11 starters on offense returning from last year's squad which produced 234 points (21.3 per game) and 3,726 yards (338.7 per game), coach Frank Ellwood is confident the Thundering Herd will be better in 1977.

"The difference will have to be consistency and execution as well as situations in which we are not playing from behind once we gain possession of the football," admits Ellwood.

Last year, Marshall tried to control the tempo of the game with its running attack which set up the passing game. It shouldn't be any different this year. Matt Gaines and Howie Harris again will be the tackles with Greg Smith centering for guards Sylvester Drobney and Dan Wells on an experienced and adept offensive line.

There'll be a good battle at quarterback between veteran Bud Nelson, who completed 76 of 158 passes for 1,187 yards and 10 touchdowns but who has undergone knee cartilage surgery since then, and Danny Wright, a promising sophomore.

There is a corps of good running backs, led by C.W. Geiger, the first 1,000-yard rusher in Marshall history. Also on hand is Mike Bailey, who gained 598 yards and fullback Tim Campbell, a solid blocker and tough inside runner.

Wide receivers Ray Crisp, Todd Ellwood and Dave Crisp along with tight ends Mike Natale and Kevin Jackson bring proven talent and experience to those positions. In addition to catching 33 passes last year, Ray Crisp also led the team in punt and kickoff returns, finishing third in the nation in all-purpose running and eighth in kickoff returns.

It is on defense where the headaches exist. Last year's unit surrendered 389 points, an average of 35.3 per game. Eight starters are back from that group.

Ellwood has indicated he will complete re-evalutaion of his personnel before deciding on this year's starting 11. One experiment has many players going both ways for the dual purposes of evaluation and training. Ellwood feels that a wide receiver, for instance, can be much better if he knows the requirement of playing cornerback.

Sophomores George Elliot at nose guard and David Kirby at right tackle have paid their freshman dues and should be better for the experience. Brian Hite, a junior, should hold forth at left tackle.

Marshall's most obvious needs, according to coach Ellwood, are linebacking and defensive ends. All positions are up for grabs with young players getting a chance to show what they can do. Linebacking experience comes in the form of Mike Sprouse, Hobart Phillips, Mel Adderton and Dennis Bellamy.

In the defensive backfield, Sam Kinker, Mike Johnson, Rodney Gibson and Kevin Smith are among those with starting experience.

The kicking game, too, will be revamped, following the results of Spring practice.

APPALACHIAN STATE (2-9)

Coach Jim Brakefield says his Mountaineers will "definitely be a whole lot better in 1978." He does have some outstanding talent at certain positions, but it remains to be seen if State can win with an inexperienced quarterback.

Brakefield has four sophomores battling for the signal-calling job, with Steve Brown and John Keith heading the list. The Mountaineers run out of the wishbone, a formation which requires a considerable amount of time and practice to perfect. With youngsters being the central figures, it's doubtful they'll shine overnight.

Running back Scott McConnell is returning for another campaign and this talented senior has drawn the notice of pro scouts. The fullback slot is manned by several capable players and Brakefield plans on shuffling them on a steady basis.

The best blocking lineman is Russell Wilson, a strong guard who the Mountaineers like to run behind.

The accent is on speed on the defensive front. Here, linebacker Pat Murphy (6-2, 240) is the most dependable performer.

The kicking game for State is top-notch, with punter David Abernathy already being eyed as a high selection in next year's pro draft.

Brakefield lost 20 lettermen but feels that most of them are replaceable. The Mountaineers should show improvement, but the iffy status of the quarterbacking situation could be a real problem.

Missouri Valley

WICHITA STATE (5-6)

Wichita State head football coach Jim Wright has 36 lettermen, including 15 starters — eight on offense and seven on defense — returning with which to try and fashion a winning record this season.

The offense would appear to be well off with most "skill" positions well represented by experienced players.

Jim Andrus again will direct the Shocker attack. The 6-0, 185-pound senior will be looking for split end captain Bryan Hanning, an All-Missouri Valley Conference selection in 1977 when he caught 50 passes for 767 yards and five TDs.

Tailback Mickey Collins and fullback Jeff Haney will lead the ground crew with the offensive line being comprised of center Charlie Moore, guard Joe Odom, and tackles Barry Bales and John Canaday.

The Shocker defense will be led by co-captains Willie Smith and Tony Drayton. Smith served as co-captain on last year's team and was one of the team's top defensive players from his end position. Coming back from a knee injury, the All-Conference down lineman had 61 total tackles, a pass interception and three fumble recoveries.

Drayton came to Shocker country as a junior transfer last year and moved into the Wichita starting secondary midway through the year. He wound up second among defensive backs in tackles with 48.

Joining Smith on the line will be tackles Troy Oney and John Blue.

Brian Anderson is a returning starter at linebacker.

Bryan Kendall is the strong safety opposite Drayton and Sherman Taylor plays one corner.

Among the graduates who must be replaced are tight end Bob Cicero, middle guard Clem Jankowski and kicker Kent Van Vleet.

Wichita has the luxury of playing seven of 11 games at home in Cessna Stadium, including the first three, and four of the last five. Oklahoma State, Louisville and Tulsa are among the visitors with the Shocker on the road against West Texas State, Drake, Memphis State and Indiana State.

W. TEXAS ST. (6-4-1)

"Our main concern is at quarterback and depth in the trenches," says West Texas State coach Bill Yung as he surveys 36 letterman including 11 starters from the Buffalo team that won the Missouri Valley crown last year, Yung's first season in the MVC.

"We have plenty of talent to work with," says the MCV Coach of the Year, "we just need time to develop it."

There's no talent gap (or its development) at running back. At fullback will be All-America Bo Robinson, the nation's leader in yards-per-carry last year (7.0) who also ranked third in total rushing yards (1,399) and sixth in yards per game (127). The 6-2, 225-pound pro prospect was the Missouri Valley's Player of the Year in 1977.

Robinson's runningmate may come from a trio of experienced aspirants. Robert Mayberry, the MVC's leading rusher two years ago, sat out '77 with an injury and could come back at either tailback or wingback. "The wing would give that knee some better protection," said Yung. "And Robert is one of our better receivers as well."

The other two possibilities are Kenny Davis, who had 438 yards, or David Johnson, who had 409. They shared the position last year.

Yung's biggest worry is at quarterback where a pair of sophs—Newtown Owens and John Whitley—will hold forth. Owens is the better runner; Whitley the superior passer.

The offensive line will be led by guard Manny Fernandez and tackle Mark Stewart but will miss All-America Bill Fifer, who has graduated.

Scott Wiley and Reggie Spencer head the receiving corps. Wiley, injured much of '77, had six catches, while Spencer, his replacement, caught 10 balls.

Defensively, the Buffs will not have the outstanding individuals of last year (honorable mention All-America George Henning and All-MVC Larry Spears) but depth and speed should be an asset.

The line will be paced by ends Ross Patton and Adrian Marsh but there is a need to develop depth.

Scott Braden, Adolpho Sonen, Mike Nelson and Freddie Whitley hold forth at linebacker.

The secondary will be headed by All-MVC strong safety Curtis Lofton and cornerback starters Roger Boykins and Vic Hayes. Only the free safety spot remains to be filled, but one of last year's top recruits, John Holt, is expected to fill that spot.

West Texas State lost its first four games last year, but displayed great courage and class by not folding and remained unbeaten the rest of the season. Yung will be looking for such positive qualities again this season.

NEW MEXICO ST. (4-7)

New Mexico State's football team is one with plenty of "news."

It's not that the Aggies have the corner on headlines, it's just that almost everything in Aggieland in 1978 is new. The Aggies will have a new stadium, a new head coach, a new coaching staff, a new offense, a new defense, and plenty of new players. Yeah, right, you "knew" it all along.

Gil Krueger is the new coach and with just eight starters returning (five on offense and three on defense) he's just about starting from scratch.

And as if bad wasn't bad enough, along comes worse news. Rick Horacek, the Aggies' leading passer and rusher last year, had to undergo a third knee operation in the off-season rendering him questionable at this time. David Springs saw some duty at quarterback last year and he now is the lone experienced signal-caller in camp.

The offensive backfield lost three of the top five rushers with Ray Locklin and Anton Niles the only experienced hands available.

Tony Lambert brings quality to wide receiver (21 catches last year) and there are a pair of tight ends in Mark Bielcik and Kevin Steger.

Pete Mallard, a guard, is the only starter back along the offensive front. Tackle Steve Solaja is a part-time starter in an otherwise revamped front.

The Aggies' best offensive weapon probably will be placekicker Skip Vernon, a three-time all-conference choice. Vernon is 29 of 51 and 59 of 60 in FGs and PATs at NMS.

On defense, where New Mexico State intends to run a multiple set, question marks abound. Dusty Furr, an appropriately named fur-raiser at linebacker, is a conference choice who is returning. Furr had 130 tackles last fall.

The entire defensive line is gone and only part-time starters Frank Domanguex and Rory Palmore return to the secondary.

Even coach Krueger might not be able to tell his players without a scorecard.

The Aggies have a new 30,000 seat stadium but it doesn't look like there'll be much to cheer about.

INDIANA ST. (3-7)

New Sycamore head coach Dick Jamieson isn't a bit worried about restoring Indiana State to a viable commodity in the Missouri Valley Conference.

"I wouldn't have taken this job if I didn't think we could do well at this level," he said. "That's our goal here — not shoot for the Big Eight title. It's to compete in and win in the Missouri Valley."

Missing from last year's 3-7 team are 17 seniors, including numerous players from the "skilled" positions. Most skilled of last year's crop was Sycamores' do-it-all All-America halfback Vincent Allen, one of only four NCAA ball carriers ever to gain 1,000 yards in each of four varsity seasons. Quite obviously, his departure creates a great running void.

Among offensive stalwarts returning are quarterback Pete McCoy, who threw for 697 yards and four TDs last fall, plus rushing for 123 yards and a pair of scores; and fullback Tony Corfield, the squad's second-leading rusher.

Halfback D.A. Daniels, a double threat as a rusher and receiver, will pick up some of the offensive slack while tight end Ken Klein (11 aerials) and split end Mike Brantley (16 receptions) bulwark the receiving corps.

The offensive line is anchored by center Tunch Ilkin, a candidate for post season laurels. Bill Weber, Jeff Schneider, Hank Hahn, Brian Foster and George DeTella are lettermen returnees.

Of the 37 returning lettermen, half are defenders, including all-Valley defensive back Don Jackson, a junior who broke up 14 passes and picked off another four last year. Mark Hardy, the second leading tackler on the team lat year, heads the linebackers with Gary Gamen and Mark Gradkowski holding forth at the tackle spots and anchoring the defensive line.

Two veteran kicking specialists also return. One is senior punter Bill Edwards, who carries almost a 40-yard average, and the other is placement expert Dave Vandercook, the Sycamores' second leading scorer in '77 with 37 points — including eight of 14 field goals.

A spirited competitor who spent the last six seasons at the University of Missouri, Jamieson was asked what to expect in his first season in the Missouri Valley Conference. "Since we haven't been through the Valley schedule yet, it's really tough to say."

He'll find out soon enough.

TULSA (3-8)

If the second time around is easier than the first, then Tulsa football coach John Cooper should have fewer sleepless nights in 1978 than he did in 1977. From a won-lost standpoint, the Hurricane's 3-8 mark last year was hardly anything to write home about, but it did give both staff and players an indication of what it would take to get back atop the Missouri Valley Conference standings. From an injury standpoint, the 1977 season ranked somewhere between disastrous and unbelievable. Cooper stopped counting when the number of disabling injuries reached double figures.

Cooper is hopeful that the return of 14 starters from among 38 lettermen plus some cooperation from the doctor will result in better fortunes this year.

Offensively, he must rebuild a front wall that has lost All-MVC tackle Harold Hamilton and second-team center Bob Mogelnicki. Two starters do return in guard Mike Gladson, a two-year starter, and tackle Doug Panfil, potentially the Hurricane's best player up front. Scott Shurmer, Jim Camp of Brett Fyffe will replace Mogelnicki but Hamilton's position is up for grabs. Steve Adams, Darrel Blackwood and converted tight end Denver Johnson will get the first looks. Also among the missing is guard Dennis Barista. Charles Chaney or Chris Kelly will get the job.

The offensive backfield will be led by quarterbacks Dave Rader and Bill Blankenship, the former the starter until felled by injury in the third game of the year. Returning running backs include sophs Sherman Johnson (96-375), a pleasant surprise late last season, and Donald Hicks (47-214). Help should come from converted defensive back Alvin Simpkins and Paul Roberson, who sat out '77 with a bum knee. At fullback, Quinn Jones will battle Hicks.

All-America candidate Rickey Watts heads up Tulsa's receiving corps. Watts is a homerun threat, last year catching 40 balls for 639 yards despite playing running back for more than half the year. With a good season, Watts will wind up second to Howard Twilley as Tulsa's all-time leading receiver. On the other side will be Scott Fenton or redshirt Jerry Taylor.

The loss of All-MVC tight end Marcus

Hatley certainly will be felt, especially since second teamer Denver Johnson has moved to offensive tackle. Juco transfer Anthony James could win the spot.

Tulsa's overall defense last year was not good, but injuries played a large part. Dell Oliver, Steve Nicholson, DeWalden Frazier and Don Blackmon should comprise the line with Robert Tennon, Ray Meadows, John Brown and Reggie Epps holding forth at linebacker.

Lovie Smith is the big name in the secondary with Chuck Simmons and Charles Washington also expected to see lots of playing time.

Punter Eddie Hare (42.0— returns but a placekicker must be found to replace Steve Cox, who transfered to Arkansas.

SO. ILLINOIS (3-8)

Last year turned out to be a season of learning for a Saluki team that was short on experience and depth but long on injuries. SIU lost six starters because of assorted ailments, and altogether, 39 different players started at one time or another.

With the nightmare season now behind him, Saluki coach Rey Dempsey is hoping he can turn last year's youth into this year's experience and squeeze out a few more victories in the process.

The offense, which broke double figures just twice in 11 games, gets first look.

"We're going to try and establish our offensive line," says Dempsey. "that appears to be our weakness. We're hoping to come up with five or six interior guys who can really come off the ball."

Four starters do return to the offensive front and there is some quality. Guard Byron Honore earned honorable mention All-Missouri Valley Conference recognition last year and could be in line for full-fledged laurels, especially if the offense is able to generate more than the 8.7 points it supplied last year. Honore's running mate at guard should be Rick Huff with John Hall between them at center. Jack Vagas looks like a good bet for one tackle spot but the other is wide open.

Dempsey is excited about the potential of big (6-4, 220) John Cernak, but won't concede the quarterback job to him — yet. Cernak started the last three games of '77 and showed some promise. He'll have to beat out Reggie Evans if he wants the job.

When Dempsey finally reunited high school teammates Bernell Quinn and Wash Henry, the ground game began to click. Quinn topped Saluki rushers last year with 822 yards and earned second-team All-MVC honors. Henry came on late, after being listed as Quinn's backup, and now will start at fullback.

Defense again should be the stronger part of the Saluki game and the line, with four of five starters back, is solid and has some depth. End Mark Michuda, an honorable mention All-MVC pick, starts at one end with Jack Niedbalski at the other. Dave Callahan is a starter at tackle and Tom Piha is back at nose guard.

Linebacking was hurt by the graduation of All-MVC and All-Illinois performer Dan Brown and the transfer of super soph Ken Caithamer. Kent State transfer Luther Foster may find a spot.

Second-team All-MVC performers Oyd Craddock (safety) and Ron Geels (monster) head a sticky secondary. They'll be joined by Tim Cruz and Alvin Reed at the corners.

DRAKE (2-9)

Almost every week, it seemed, during the 1977 season, Drake head coach Chuck Shelton would moan, "Oh, my aching backfield."

The Bulldogs, without a healthy Rob Forbes and Wayne Williams most of the season had trouble moving the football on the ground.

The emergence of Calvin Hill helped, but Drake could never quite mount that running attack to compliment its passing game.

That could all change this year. Drake has 14 starters back, seven each on offense and defense, and the ground game that Shelton so covets, may finally have arrived. Not only does Hill return, but Forbes is back too, along with Williams and junior college transfers Dwaine Ball and Wardell Wright.

Hill gained 445 yards in 114 carries last year and was the Bulldogs' only consistent runner. Forbes was out nearly all the year with a bad knee while Williams was felled by an achilles tendon.

If Forbes and Williams cannot do the job, Ball or Wright may. Both have impressive jc stats.

"So much depends on our running game being better," Shelton said. "It's got to be better."

The quarterback situation appears healthy with starter Jerry Smith, a 61.8 percent pin-point passer, back for another year of signal calling.

Shelton feels the offensive line is an area where the Bulldogs could be strong with the return of tackle Jack Matia and guards Steve Schaffner, Tim Smith and Rafael Soto. All started for the Bulldogs last season.

Drake was hit hard by graduation in two areas, the defensive secondary and the receiving corps. "I am concerned about our receiver situation much as anything," says Shelton.

Ed Wallace, Mark Flanker, Pat Tuttle and Rich Suchanuk will have to do the job.

Defensively, especially in the secondary, there are holes to fill. George Ferguson is the lone holdover, playing free safety. Derrick Goddard, a jc transfer, will combine with Felix Wright and David Hurley to shore up that area.

Up front there is more experience. Rich Carstens and Matt Henry return to end along with tackle David Glover and nose guard Dana Nelson.

Linebacker is headed by Herc Payton, who led the team in tackles last fall as a freshman. Joining him are Robb Hill and Joel Jones.

Mark Mendenhall returns for the placements with jc All-America Pat King (43.3) in charge of punting.

"We'll have to challenge ourselves to be successful," Shelton said. "It's up to us what kind of year we're going to have."

Southland Con.

LOUISIANA TECH (9-1-2)

A year ago the major question facing coach Maxie Lambright was what to do about the quarterback slot, a position the Bulldogs have traditionally filled with outstanding athletes.

The answer was to hand the ball to untested sophomore Keith Thibodeaux and watch him pass for more yards than any sophomore in Tech history and for the second highest total in school annals behind Terry Bradshaw's nation-leading figure of 2,890 in 1968.

Using a strong arm and an ability to scramble, Thibodeaux led Tech to a fifth Southland Conference title in the past seven years and on to a 24-14 victory over Louisville in the Independence Bowl.

This year the Bulldogs again should go to the airwaves often, although they must come up with a replacement for graduated split end Rod Foppe who had more receiving yards (1,274) than any other major college receiver last year. In fact, Tech lost its top three receivers along with the school's all-time rushing king, tailback John Henry White, who ran for 1,094 yards last year — when no other Techsters had more than 166 rushing.

Charlie Lewis will likely take over for White with Joe Mack Johnson probably starting at fullback. As for the receiving crew, look for George Pree and Scooter Spruiell at the wide spots with the search on for a replacement at tight end.

Defensively, Tech lost six regulars off a unit that ranked No. 3 nationally in total defense, allowing just 22.1 yards per game. Its most awesome statistic was a total 105 behind-the-lines traps totaling 635 yards.

The leader was linebacker Jimmy Blackshire who had 106 individual tackles with 14 sacks for minus 94 yards. Other defensive leaders should include tackles Ronnie Paggett and John Ward, end Johnny Robinson and safety Bill Schneider.

Overall, Tech returns 38 of 56 lettermen including six offensive starters and five defensive regulars.

Offensively, the most difficult men to replace will be all-stars Rod Foppe (split end), John Henry White (tailback) and Larry McCartney (tight end). Defensively, Tech graduated the SLC's "Defensive Player of the Year" in cornerback Larry Anderson who was also third team All-America, plus All-SLC linebacker Curley White and ALL-SLC safety Donnie Perry.

Tech had 10 men of the All-SLC club and seven of them were seniors.

ARKANSAS ST. (7-4)

Bill Davidson must be up to one of his old tricks again. The eighth year Arkansas State boss has been promoting his passing game for 1978, and already skeptics are trying to figure out just who he thinks he's kidding.

"We discovered another weapon last year," said Davidson, who has 17 returning starters from a surprising 7-4 team. "We have the best passing combination in ASU history, so we'd be stupid not to use it."

Davidson, not normally a proponent of the forward pass, enjoyed the results from it last year (20 of the Indians' 31 scores can be directly attributed to the pass) enough to dedicate the majority of spring work to it.

Split end Dikki Dyson and quarterback Kennon Taylor comprise that passing combo. Dyson landed 40 Taylor passes last year for 710 yards. Taylor, who like Dyson is a senior, finished up with 1,404 passing yards, the second best throwing year in ASU history.

Third-year starter Danny Garrison at tight end and running backs Joe Griffin and Larry Lawrence—last year's top two yardage collectors (with over 1,100 yards between them)—headline the other returning offensive starters.

Line regulars include tackles Bobby Earwood and Jerry Castor and guard Danny Cook. Hank Chandler will take over at left guard and Carver Abston will be the center.

Defensively, where nine starters return, the secondary of Jerry McKenna (he led the '77 Tribe with five interceptions), Keith Wineland, Greg Lawrence and Enoch Tims remains intact.

Tackles Freddie Lisko and Gene Spears, alternating noseguards Keith Cox and Chet Day, and end Ray Culpepper of-

fer a solid nucleus for what should be one of the more stubborn fronts in the conference.

At linebacker, two-year letterman Ron Smith will be breaking in a new partner.

Doug Dobbs, who booted eight-of-15 field goals and 17-of-19 extra points, is the place-kicker with Joe Slayton (38.0) the punter.

McNEESE ST. (5-5-1)

A defense that boasts seven returnees and is headed by All-America linebacking candidate Doug Fruge will key the Cowboys' efforts this season. The linebacker and secondary positions will be strong points for McNeese State as the Cowboys attempt to nudge over the .500 mark and post a better showing in the Southland Conference this year. The Cowboys finished fifth in the SLC with a 1-3-1 mark in 1977.

Besides the 230-pound Fruge, a two-time All-Southland Conference performer, regular LB Billy Joe Davenport also returns. David Adams is the favorite to inherit the other linebacking post.

The secondary should be very strong as the unit returns intact. Cornerbacks Charles Jefferson and Bryan Hicks teamed with safeties Tim Harris and Tommy Tate to intercept 14 passes last year while holding the opposition to just six TD lobs.

Defensive problems could exist up front, however, where only tackle Jim Pousson returns. He'll likely team with Anthony Naguin while Chan Perry and Rusty Guilbeau are at the ends.

The offense has lost several quality starters and Cowboy coach Jack Doland will have to build around his five returning starters from a year ago.

Major headache is at quarterback where only Chad Millet has any collegiate playing experience. Battling him for the starting spot are Wendell LeJeune and Robert Davenport, up from the JV, and Johnny Spears, who returned to football after a two-year absense.

The team's second and third leading rushers of a year ago — fullback Oliver Hadnot and tailback Harry Price — return to bolster the ground game. Hadnot gained 351 yards last year and averaged 3.7-yards per pop while Price chipped in with 311 and had a 4.6-yard average.

Also returning is split end Richard Ellender, second on the team last year with 17 catches for 292 yards, and starting slot back Tony Burlingame, who was third with 11 grabs.

Louis Landry will assume the tight end duties.

Up front, two starters return, center Robert Jeter and 260-pound tackle Ray Martin. George Albers should move in between the two with James Broussard and Chuck Peltier assuming the guard and tackle spots, respectively, on the other side.

Jan Peebles returns to do the placekicking and Chad Millet will assume the punting chores.

SOUTHWESTERN LA. (6-4-2)

For the first time in three years Southwestern Louisiana coach Augie Tammariello will be looking for a quarterback as the Rajin' Cajuns seek to better last year's second place finish in the Southland Conference.

"We're going to do basically three things," says Tammariello. "One, we'll evaluate personnal. Two, we'll install our offensive, defensive and kicking schemes. Third, we'll work on team cohesiveness."

Taking preference will be finding a replacement for All-America quarterback Roy Henry. Replacing Henry, who set 17 USL passing and total offense records in three years, will be no easy task. The challenge will fall to sophs David Guidry and Curt Caldarera,; JC transfer Bob Gagliano and senior Ken Matthews. Gagliano is the most intriguing, having won All-America honors at the junior college level last year.

Other than a void at quarterback, eight starters return on offense, including a surprise — fullback Allen Strambler. Strambler thought his eligibility was up but the new rule allowing freshmen to redshirt gives him another year. Strambler was USL's leading rusher last year. The No. 2 man, tailback Barry Herbert, also returns along with his 4.1-yard average. Booker Price, Charles Gray and freshman Henry Lee lend depth.

Among the returning starters in the receiving corps are split end David Gray, tight end Calvin Jones and wingbacks Nat Durant and Rodney Smith. James, a second team All-SLC pick, led the Cajuns in receptions (41) and touchdowns scored (six). Gray had 30 grabs and an average of 19.4-yards per catch.

Although five of six line starters return, Tammariello has done quite a bit of personnel shuffling. At the tackles he'll have Mark Dominque, a reserve last season, and Mark David, a backup center in '77. At guards he'll have Ron Tabor and Matt Brooks along with Lemuel Pitts and Charles Bertrand. Pitts started at tackle last year while Bertrand played center (got it?). Roy Murray returns as a starter at center.

Seven starters return to the Cajuns' 5-2 defense, the biggest problem at tackle where graduation has claimed both of last year's regulars. Kent Head, Jeff Holm and Joe Kelly will battle at those spots with Ken Chenier, Randy Thomas and John Singletary vying at end. Dale Thomas and Jeff Tanguis split time at nose guard.

Clarence Hannah heads the linebackers with two-time All-SLC cornerback Ron Irving the big man in the secondary. Willie Allen, Gerald Joseph and Al Kennedy should complete the quartet.

John Roveto, a first team All-SLC performer who finished fourth in the nation in field goal proficiency, heads up the kicking game.

ARLINGTON STATE (5-6)

Bud Elliot has guided his Mavericks to consecutive 5-6 records the past two years, but with the loss of seven defensive players and three offensive performers, including highly regarded fullback Derrick Jenson, the club may not match that mark in 1978.

With Jenson gone, most of the running will be done by Tony Felder and Phillip Jessie, a pair of unproven but promising sophomores.

Quarterback Roy Dewalt is the main man and directs the triple-option offense. Elliot is anticipating that Dewalt will continue to show the improvement he did last season.

His primary targets will be Scott Burt and Gary Lewis, nimble receivers who can catch the ball in a crowd.

Tom Slaughter (235 pounds) is the primary force on the defensive line, and he receives support from a good linebacking crew headed up by Ron Michelsen and Willie Thomas.

The secondary's main man is Gary Davis, as Elliot is searching for some able bodies to complete the defensive contingent.

The Mavericks have had mediocre years recently and it's doubtful they'll be able to step any higher than that. If anything, they might drop a notch or two as Elliot experiments with his youngsters.

LAMAR (2-9)

After three consecutive dismal seasons, the Lamar University Cardinals are looking toward better things in 1978.

But, coach Bob Frederick enters his third campaign without any real outstanding offensive performer and this continues to be Lamar's Achilles heel.

Despite strong defensive teams, the Cardinals have come away with 1-10, 2-9 and 2-9 records over the past three years and the situation looks much the same as another season approaches.

Frederick has 35 lettermen (three are from 1976) and a dozen starters returning but only one offensive backfield veteran, junior flanker Howard Robinson.

The running back corps was depleted with the graduation of All-Southland Conference halfback Kevin Bell and mates Louis Falgout and Jeff Bergeron. Frederick will turn to James Rollins and Mike Evans, both who saw limited service, or transfers Marc Flowers and Keith Gilchrist, the latter by way of LSU.

Charles Behn started the '77 season at quarterback but played only one quarter before a knee injury sent him to the sidelines. The Cards tried four signal-callers after that, but none were successful, so it appears that Behn should win back his old spot without too much difficulty.

Lamar didn't play catch very well in 1977 as the Cardinals only completed 31 percent of their passes.

Leroy Johnson, Tommy White and Alfred Mask earned letters as wide receivers but White and Mask are coming off knee surgeries and remain doubtful.

Rick Overton is the incumbent at tight end.

All-SLC guard Victor Enard anchors an offensive front that also returns tackles J.D. Wilkins and Kenny Birkes and center Bruce Clapp.

The Cardinal defense again should be strong. All-League nose guard Matt Burnett, the team's statistical tackle leader, heads the unit.

Burnett will be aided by end Buford Thomas, linebackers Jay Warrick and Tommy Griffiths, cornerback Don Gordon and strong safety Kurt Phoenix.

Lamar lost a pair of 10-6 games, a 9-5 contest and a 14-7 verdict last year. So the Cardinals are only a touchdown improvement away from being winners.

Pacific Coast A.A.

FRESNO STATE (9-2)

The defending Pacific Coast Athletic Association winners will be under the control of a new coach as Bob Padilla, former defensive coordinator at Michigan State, succeeds Jim Sweeny. Padilla, although inheriting a defending champion, might find things rather difficult since there'll be only 10 starters returning.

The number-one concern is to find a replacement for departed QB Dean Jones, who ran the veer offense to near perfection. A junior college transfer, Dale Yancy is the pre-season choice.

Running back Steve Woods is a promising sophomore and he'll be taking advantage of the expert blocking supplied by guard John Batz.

Tight end Bob Rippentropp, a former linebacker, is a great target at 6'6", and tough to haul down at 235 pounds.

The defense has a lot of speed and quickness, but not too much size, according to Padilla. Linebackers Daryl Bacon and Delmo Hooks key the outfit, and replacements must be sought for six graduated starters.

Placekicker Vince Petucci is one of the nation's better marksmen and is closing in on the consecutive point-after-touchdown record.

Padilla certainly has his work cut out for him as he tries to lead Fresno to another title, and it appears he might fall a little short in that attempt.

UTAH STATE (4-7)

Utah State coach Bruce Snyder and his Aggie team ran out of season in 1977 just when the club was playing its best. The Aggies won three of their final four to finish at 4-7 and with 35 lettermen returning — including seven offensive and seven defensive starters — Snyder plans to see that his team lifts off earlier this year.

And the 1978 season begins soon enough: September 3 against Idaho State in . . . Holy Rickshaw! . . . Japan.

If Snyder's heralded new recruits produce in some spots along the offensive line and at linebacker and cornerback — and he things they will — then the Aggies could continue to improve off Snyder's slow but steady 3-8, 4-7 first two seasons.

With split end/return specialist Jimmy Bryant, tailback Rick Parros and quarterback Eric Hipple, the Ags have virtually all the "talent" positions well-stocked and such depth augers well for Utah State's initial appearance this year in the Pacific Coast Athletic Association (PCAA).

Bryant gives Utah State the breakaway threat it lacked for many years. He caught 41 passes for 561 yards and six scores last year in addition to returning punts at a 12.6-yard average, third best among the nation's returning players.

Parros became the first USU soph to rush for more than 1,000 yards (1,135) and placed seventh in the country among leading all-purpose runners; 14th in rushing. He averaged 4.3 yards per each of his back-breaking 261 carries.

Hipple threw for 1,301 yards on 52.6 percent accuracy (91-173) and hit paydirt 10 times. USU's passing game racked up an average of 203.8 yards per contest last year, 16 best in the nation.

Other key offensive performers include fullback Garry Wolz, tackles Kevin Powell and Jim O'Rourke and guard Ernest Aalona.

Defensively, linebacking was hit hardest by graduation, claiming three of last year's four regulars. Will Withers and Dave Spiker shared one outside post but both probably will start this year.

The middle of the line is secure with tackles Joe Wills and Rulon Jones flanking nose guard Kelly Kirwan. Again, Ron Truitt also is listed as a starter at nose guard. Key man up front though, is Jones, a 6-6, 240-pound product who led the Aggie down linemen in stops last year as a sophomore.

The secondary returns three starters, right cornerback Ron McCloud, free safety Dave Parkin and rover Scott Tillotson.

LONG BEACH (4-6)

With 18 of 22 starters returning head coach Dave Currey is optimistic about his second season at California State University, Long Beach.

"On paper we should be 100 percent better defensively than a year ago and I feel good about our quarterback situation because we have two quarterbacks who I know can play."

Paul McGaffigan, who started the last two games when the 49ers beat Bowling Green and almost upset nationally-ranked BYU, passed for 891 yards last year while Jim Freitas is the number three quarterback nationally returning from last season after passing for 1,358 yards and 15 touchdowns in only eight games. The two combined to make Long Beach the number-10 ranked passing team in the nation in '77.

To go with his throwers, Currey has the Pacific Coast Athletic Association's top four receivers returning, headed by Jim McCluskey, the 6-6 tight end. McCluskey had 33 catches for 381 yards. Tony Madocks (35 catches, 410 yards), Vernon "Look Out" Henry (29 catches, 601 yards) and fullback Chuck Benbow (32 catches, 289 yards) are all returning starters who will be aided by JC All-America Ron Johnson.

Benbow will be joined by Ron Settles and Michael Payne in the running back contingent.

All the starters return to the offensive line plus some outstanding transfers who will push for starting berths. Tackle Jay Caffey heads the list of returnees with UCLA transfer Herman Parker topping the newcomers.

On defense, tackle Phil Lombardo is a returning All-PCAA second team choice who will have help from mates Steve Smith and Reggie Belanger.

Mark Fata, the team's fiercest hitter, is projected as the heir to graduated All-Coast and three-year starter Dan Bunz at linebacker. Kim Thomas and Shaun Ward also return here.

The secondary has three regulars back but Currey called it a questionable area with transfers Scotty Byers, Dennis Cole, Ken Phillips and Reggie Kellough challenging returnees Wayne Douglass, Jerry Denham, Eric Anglim and Alvin Bennett for starting berths.

PACIFIC (6-5)

The Tigers will be looking to improve on last season's second place Pacific Coast Athletic Association finish (3-1) but will have to do so without the services of Bruce Gibson, the second all-time leading rusher in UOP history.

Gibson was the total offense, scoring and rushing leader for the Tigers, so filling his claws will be no easy task. Fortunately for coach Chester Caddas, most of Gibson's supporting cast has not walked the commencement line with him.

Strength lies in the line where centers Jack Cosgrove and Ken Rohde pivot for guards Bruce Filarsky and Steve Goulart, plus tackles Mike Whited, Rich Howard, Brad Short and Tom Tipton.

In the backfield, Bruce Parker and Steve Harden again will split the quarterback duties. Parker had the more impressive passing stats. They'll be aided by fullback Mike Colton and tailback Richard Phillips. Colton averaged an impressive 6.1 yards per carry while Phillips checked in at 4.7. Also on hand is Jim Boulware, back from a knee injury suffered last year.

Joe Conron's graduation leaves a void at wide receiver (Conron caught 31 in addition to leading the PCAA in punt returns.)

Pacific's defense was the best in the league, surrendering the fewest number of points in PCAA play. The unit is paced by linebacker Randy Vassar, the Tigers' top tackler of a year ago. Joining Vassar will be defensive backs Shelton Dent, Warren Haggray and Sterling Bruner, defensive ends John Glass and Jeff Bassett, along with tackle Jim Escobedo. Pacific opponents connected on only 43 percent of their aerials and made but 3.3 yards per rush.

Frank Alegre, who converted on 23 of 24 extra points and added a school-record 13 field goals, is the placement specialist.

Roy Gaebel is in charge of the punting chores.

SAN JOSE STATE (4-7)

The Spartans were less than spectacular in '77 but coach Lynn Stiles will have most of his players back for this season and a reversal of form is anticipated.

Forty-five lettermen have returned, with seven starters back from each unit. In addition, several transfers should abet the program.

Spartan linebacker Frank Manumaliuna is the hub of the defensive contingent, and this 6-3, 245 hard-hitter was "All-Everything" last season. Pro scouts have already made visits to check out his credentials, and they haven't been disappointed. Although one man doesn't necessarily make a defense, Manumaliuna can come as close as anybody.

Another linebacker, Rayford Roberson (6-3, 190), is another first-rate performer and along with Manumaliuna, will tighten up the State defense.

Offensively, Ed Luther, the 14th-rated passer in the nation last year, is back to direct the Spartan attack. He'll have Kevin Cole in the backfield, and the latter has proven his versatility and is one of the best all-purpose halfbacks in the nation.

A pair of transfers should make the offense more potent. Wide receiver Dexter Tisty is a sure-fire threat and running back Gerald Thomas will make things exciting whenever he gets the ball.

Stiles' club will be more experienced and that's an essential ingredient for any team that has its sights set on a winning season. The Spartans have a lot of promising players and if they fulfill that expectation, Stiles will have a strong unit on his hands.

FULLERTON (4-7)

Cal State Fullerton coach Jim Colletto stresses the work "improvement" when discussing his Titans.

"This year we've better players then we've ever had," says Colletto. "Each year we've been here we've gotten better players, and I feel we've improved each of those years as a team." Improvement, though, has been painfully slow. Since joining the Titans in '75, CSF has gone 2-9, 3-7-1 and 4-7 last year.

"We'll have only seven seniors on this year's squad, so we'll be a young team. But," adds the 32-year-old mentor, "we've got some quality freshmen and junior college transfers coming in to go along with our returnees."

Twenty-nine lettermen are back from last year's team, but only eight—four each on offense and defense—started in 1977.

Leading the list of returnees is quarterback Dale Bunn who passed for 954 yards and gained 281 rushing to lead the Titans in total offense with 1,235. The total offense figure is the highest since 1971, when CSF was a Division II university. Bunn hit on 51 percent of his passes, so he didn't just "put it up."

The Titans also return four of last year's top five rushers (including Bunn). Jay Bennett rushed for 643 yards and a 4.8-yard

average to lead the Titans in '77 and he returns. Mike Martin (464 yards) and Obie Graves (423) lend support.

The receiving corps will depend on Marcus Williams, Miller Johnson and Jerome Young, all of whom started at one time or another last year. Redshirt Pete Spiers will get first crack at tight end.

Leonard King is the lone returnee among the offensive linemen although players like Rick Grazyck, Jim Allender and Doug Arneson all saw a lot of action.

The Titans recruiting was geared to the defensive unit.

No less than six linebackers/defensive ends were recruited by CSF, five down linemen (tackles and middle guards) and six defensive backs (all cornerbacks).

"The single position we were most concerned about was cornerback," says Colletto. "Overall, our front seven was the biggest concern and we put most of our attention on those positions. The defensive backs we recruited all have speed, and the linebackers have good size to go along with the speed. We'll have an agile, active defensive line, with freshmen probably making the biggest impact in this area."

Adds Colletto: "Although they haven't played a down for us, this group of recruits is the best we feel because other teams in our league also recruited them."

Independents

Teams listed alphabetically.

AKRON (6-4-1)

Jim Dennison was NCAA small-college Coach of the Year in 1976, but his club slipped to a 6-4-1 mark last season, but with the return of 24 lettermen, he's hoping the Zips will regain their zeal.

Last season the defense was the dominating force while the offense struggled. This year should be just the reverse, with the offense taking over the spotlight while the defense will be the probable weak link.

There'll be only five defensive starters returning, and Dennison is not very sure the unit will stand up to the pressure. He does expect top-flight performances from a couple of defensive stalwarts, cornerback Curtis Howard and Mike Holian.

The Zips employ a 5-4-2 defense and Dennison is praying it doesn't get zapped too many times.

The offensive group will be missing only two starters and many positive things are anticipated.

Quarterback Marty Dezdatchenko directs the slot-I attack and is aided by an experienced group of runners and receivers. James White is the most notable pass-catcher.

A pair of strong linemen bolster the offensive punch, as guard Herb Kolar and tackle Stan Rice pave the way.

Dennison has turned in some outstanding coaching jobs the past several years and is capable of doing it again in '78. Should the defense develop quickly, the Zips will sting many opponents this season.

AUSTIN PEAY (8-3)

Boots Donnelly gave himself a four-year plan to elevate Austin Peay when he took over last year. Donnelly goofed it all up. He nearly achieved everything in his first season.

By year four of the Donnelly plan, Austin Peay was to:

1-Win the Ohio Valley Conference championship.

2-Gain recognition in the NCAA Division II poll.

3-Secure a berth in a regional bowl.

With three years to go, only a bowl berth is left. In 1977 Donnelly was named OVC Coach of the Year as the Governors won their first OVC championship and also made the NCAA Division II top ten. Austin Peay was under consideration for a bowl, but didn't receive an invitation. Oh well, at least there's one thing for Donnelly and his crew to look forward to.

Returning from last season's championship squad are 30 lettermen, including 15 starters, two of them All-OVC performers.

End Ron Sebree and safety Mike Betts are two of seven regulars back from last year's league leading defense that yielded just 15 touchdowns over 11 games.

Bryan Stege, Lionel Plaisance and Tim Hickey will join Sebree on the front line. Donnelly will chosse from a trio of canidates for the new strong side end.

Rick Coleman returns at linebacker with Betts, Lynn Hailstock and Joe Grimsley offering support in the secondary.

On offense, a few positions must be filled. The line will be woven around second-team All-OVC tackle Mike Ross, center Clinton Bell and guard Sid Fritts.

Tight end Phil Todd, the Gov's leading receiver last year, returns with Steve Bullard and Steve Puthoff working out wide.

Keith Wright returns at wingback.

Experience at quarterback is an obvious strength with the return of four-year starter Randy Christophel who led the Governors in total offense and passing last year.

Cosmo Cochran and redshirt Donald Brown are the leading candidates for the tailback spot. Cochran was the Governor's third best rusher last year with 306 yards and a 5.6 yard average.

Ernest Fletcher is the top hope at fullback but he must come back from an injury.

Mike Meador will be in charge of the placements.

CINCINNATI (5-4-2)

Seventeen points in the right places and Cincinnati would have been 10-1 last year instead of 5-4-2. The Bearcats were tied twice and lost games by three, four and five points. The fact that they scored 250 points while surrendering but 121 and finished only one game above .500 is dramatic proof of how important it is to win the close ones.

And while second-year coach Ralph Staub doesn't want to linger in the past, the future doesn't appear overly bright, either. The Bearcats lose 14 starters from last year's team but there still is some quality remaining.

Howie Kurnick (nose guard), Dwayne Berry (linebacker), Mike Clark (defensive back) and Marcellus Greene (defensive back) return to spearhead a defensive unit that recorded three shutouts and was ranked second nationally in rushing defense (79.2 yards per game allowed), as well as 11th in scoring defense (11.0 ppg). Kurnick, who is being mentioned for All-America honors this year, led the team in tackles and sacks last year.

Berry, meanwhile, has played in the shadow of All-America Mike Woods but seems ready now to cop some awards of his own. Kurnick and Berry will be joined this year by Ohio State transfer Farley Bell, who will step in at one end position.

The 'Cats also lose seven starters from the offensive unit, including leading ground gainer Curtiss Williams (845 yards, 5.2 avg.). Sophomore Bob Massong, who filled in very capably for Williams last year (341, 4.5), could possibly get the starting nod at tailback, or be moved to the wingback slot where he would battle Aaron Hagans for a starting berth. The tailback situation may be resolved by any of five freshmen recruited by Staub in 1978.

Soph Tony Kapetanis will return to handle the quarterbacking chores with a year's experience under his belt. He performed well running the club as a freshman (365, 4.9) but had trouble with his passing (26 of 70, 392 yards and nine interceptions). However, if spring drills were any indication, then Kapetanis is much improved.

Kapetanis' primary targets should be Mike Cusumano and Mike Frisina. A pair of three-year starters, tackle Gardner Cobb and guard Carl DeWalt, are gone from the offensive front and will be missed. Mike Rock will man the center position while Ed Kloboves is at one guard. Joe Caleca and Curtis Alexander will vie on the other side. Mike Rogers and Al Slusarz will be in contention for one tackle spot but the key at that position is Bob Wright, a '76 starter who is coming off an injury. If Wright is 100 percent again, then the line should be just fine.

Mike Connell, a 42.8-yard punter for three years must be replaced but Steve Schultz is back to handle the placements. Schultz has converted 55 of 57 PATs while leading the Bearcats in scoring the past two seasons.

DAYTON (8-3)

A top-notch ground game and a veteran defense are the ingredients coach Rick Carter will mix together this year as he attempts to continue the upward flight begun by the Flyers last year.

Entering his second season as Flyers' head skipper, Carter will have 31 lettermen on hand, 11 of which were starters in '77, five on offense and six on defense.

The offensive attack will be led by tailback Sylvester Monroe, the Red and Blue's top infantryman last year. Monroe, who is zeroing in on the all-time Dayton ground mark, notched 897 yards last year, had a 4.2-yard average and scored 12 touchdowns. Teaming up with him in the backfield will be fullbacks Brian Dorenkott and Tom Berkemier. Dorenkott was the second leading rusher in '77 with 443 yards (3.7) and seven touchdowns to his credit.

Reserves Scott Terry and Claude Chaney will share duties at the quarterback spot, replacing graduated starter B.J. Dailey who accounted for 1,601 aerial yards last year. Terry was six-of-18 and Chaney two-of-seven in limited service last year.

On the receiving end, Dave Seman will replace last year's leading pass-catcher, J.D. Clark (54 grabs) at flanker. Burt White will be at tight end with Al Laubenthal at split end.

Up on the offensive line, the Flyers have three veterans. Center Bill Sahnd will be flanked by guards Gary Cooper and Jerry Ward. Sam Rampey, once a linebacker, will be tried at tackle.

The Flyer strength on defense will be their line. Ends Hyman Gibson and Joe Overbeck return along with tackles Bill Heatherton and Mark Lucht and middle guard Steve Scheid.

Rick Chamberlain and Ed Plaspohl will lend experience to the linebacking corps, but only Mike Bailey has starting experience in the secondary. Dale Fouse and Tom Schoen likely will inherit starting berths.

Coach Carter sees a pro prospect in placekicker Hartmut Strecker. The soccer-style booter went 34-for-34 in PATs in 1977 and set a Dayton record with a 59-yard field goal against Iowa State.

Recruiting was good at Dayton and a few incoming freshmen will be expected to offer immediate aid.

EASTERN ILLINOIS (1-10)

Despite coming off a 1-10 season, one of the worst in Panther football history, there is a feeling of optimism at Illinois State. Darrell Mudra, who has a history of some success (110 wins, five bowl games and a championship at North Dakota State) has replaced John Konstantinos as head coach and brought with him a new staff and new philosophy. For one thing, the Panthers will throw the ball more. A 40% completion rate last year did the Panthers in, so it will be up to either Chuck Wright, Don Pittman or Chris Shelley to right that wrong.

The offensive line will be built around center Jack Lafferty, an impressive 6-5, 245-pound physical specimen, and guard Stan Gunn.

Most of the offensive fireworks should come from Chris "Poke" Cobb, one of the best mini-backs in the country. The diminutive (5-8, 180) scatback gained 951 yards last year and missed either part or all of three games with an injury. He averaged 5.3 yards per carry and now has 2,103 yards in his two year career. Cobb also tied for the team leadership in receptions with a paltry eight, testimony more to the lack of a passing attack, certainly, than to Cobb's abilities.

Mudra's biggest problem will be the defense which gave up an average of four touchdoens a game last year. He does have three-fourths of a veteran secondary returning and two sophmore linebackers, Tom Murray and Don Gordon, who improved as the season went along. Kim Wells, a free safety, has been a three-year starter.

Mudra's best defensive weapon should be the strong leg of punter Jeff Gossett, one of the best in the nation at his specialty. Gossett led the NCAA II with a 43.0 average last year and will be back for his senior season if he does not sign a professional baseball contract.

On the other side of the coin, Marcus Potts is a superb kickoff return specialist. Potts averaged nearly 28 yards per return but had only 16 chances, not enough to qualify him for NCAA II laurels. An experiment could find Potts in the offensive backfield this year.

HAWAII (5-6)

With 41 lettermen returning, including 16 starters, University of Hawaii head football coach Dick Tomey looks upon the 1978 season with optimism, despite the most difficult schedule in the school's history.

Tomey began his first head coaching assignment last summer. Without the benefit of a spring practice, Tomey installed a multiple offense and new defensive alignment and led the Rainbow Warriors to a surprising 5-6 season, including a stunning 24-7 upset of South Carolina.

Nine starters return to the offensive unit, led by an experienced quarterback and several good running backs. Jeff Duva passed for 1,487 yards last season and set a new school mark for fewest interceptions. He completed 53 percent of his passes, including 10 for touchdowns.

Wilbert Haslip heads up the ground game after leading the Warriors with 698 yards last season. Haslip, who carries a 5.2-yard average, rolled for 221 yards in one game to establish an Hawaii single-game record. He'll have good company from lettermen George Bell and Keith Hill along with redshirt Radford Park and Nicky Clark.

Dwayne Jett is the top man at wide receiver with Mike Jackson the biggest (6-6, 225) and the best at tight end.

Says Tomey of his offense: "We must strive to be a better short yardage and goal line offense, an area we faltered in last season."

Defensively seven starters return with Tom Tuinei spearheading the line again. Gary Spotts must come back from an injury to reclaim a starting tackle spot.

Mike Arvanetis has been shifted from outside to inside linebacker and he'll be joined by either Scott Voeller, last year's regular, on Junior Talaesea. The outside spots will be manned by a combination of Arthur Smith, Gary Lewis and Ian Meyers.

Keoni Jardine and Burton Coloma return to starting secondary roles and the unit will be further strengthened if Tom Knight can overcome academic woes.

Greg Cummins returns to the punting wars (41.6 last year) but walk-on Stan Kua is the only toe available for the placements.

Hawaii is seeking to upgrade its football program having scheduled Nebraska (again) and USC this year.

HOLY CROSS (2-9)

After struggling through seasons of 2-9 and 3-8, Neil Wheelwright and his staff feel that things have just got to get better.

They certainly can't get much worse.

But there is reason for optimism. The Crusaders have 35 lettermen back, including 16 starters—eight offensively and eight defensively—from the team that closed out 1977 with successive wins over Connecticut and Boston College. Also, of the top 44 players listed on the two-deep chart for the final game, 34 are back, assuring more than adequate depth. Add to this what Crusader followers feel have been two good recruiting years and Purple predictors think there's a good chance for a winning record.

Offensively, only fullback Steve Hunt, tackle Jim Pendergast and wide receiver Pat Kelly (the team's leading receiver) are gone. Pete Columbo returns to direct the offense after assuming the starter's berth at the end of last year. He'll again have to fight it out with Joe LeMay. Columbo had the more impressive passing stats.

The ground crew should be solid. Crocky Nangle, last year's leading rusher (148-603 yards/4.1) will move from halfback to fullback with Larry Ewald and Brian Doherty at the halfbacks. Ewald and Doherty have been starters since their freshman campaigns.

Craig Cerretani, the team's leading receiver as a junior, suffered a shoulder separation in the first game last fall and missed the next 10; but he's back. So is tight end Mike Smith.

The offensive line is headed by All-East guard Bob Hurley, a four-year starter and one of the best prospects to ever play for the Crusaders. Other returnees up front, all starters since their freshman years, are Joe DeSisto, Mark Bates and Jack McGovern.

Defensively, the secondary may have been the youngest around last year, but now they've been tested and should be better. Junior safety Glenn Verrette is the "old man" between soph cornerbacks Bob Ireland and Peter George. (Holy Cross uses the 4-4-3 defense).

Mike Hanne, at end, bulwarks the line along with Jay Howlett and Steve Gannon.

Linebacking is the major defensive problem area.

Wheelwright will be relying on experience this year. "For once we have some experienced numbers in our upper two classes and more experience. Overall we still lack depth but we do feel we have enough quality players to carry us through the rough spots and on to, hopefully, a winning season."

ILLINOIS ST. (3-7-1)

Coach Charlie Cowdrey faces his second season with only 27 lettermen and just eight starters from last year's 3-7-1 team. Cowdrey almost can count the squad's number of proven players on one hand.

Foremost among them is All-State Collegiate quarterback Butch Monaghan, a junior who passed for 1,215 yards and 10 touchdowns last season. But he will need blocking support as offensive guard John Bavester is the only returning line regular. Help might come from junior college recruit Terry Johnson, a robust 255-pound guard, and Jim Rio, a 230-pound tackle who was redshirted last season.

Among the missing is All-State tackle Bill Bunting and wide receiver Jeff Gowan. Gowan was head-and-shoulders the best receiver, snaring 47 balls last year for 702 yards and six TDs. Compounding the problem is the loss of last year's top rusher, Kent Roberts. However, the Nos. 2, 3 and 4 men return. Ronald Razz had the most yardage (342), Ben Reed the best average (4.3). Angelo Jackson (3.8) is the fullback.

Defensive losses also were ample. The Redbirds must replace the entire secondary and linebacking corps.

But first the good news.

Illinois State should be tough from tackle-to-tackle with returning vets Jim Lucas, Roger Cook and McKinley Moton in the trenches.

Hardes position to fill could be cornerback where Estus Hood worked. Hood was a starter in the Blue-Gray game. Phil Meyer, meanwhile, earned All-State honors at safety.

ISU's kicking game also will be new. Meyer handled punting chores. School record placekicker Joel Pohlod, team scoring leader the past two seasons, also is gone.

"This will be a challenging year," understates Cowdrey. "The schedule is demanding and the small number of juniors and seniors puts a burden on our sophomores and freshmen. Many of our freshmen will have to play as high as the second team."

Illinois State has elected to compete in Division I-A of the newly reorganized NCAA football structure.

LOUISVILLE (7-4-1)

There's nothing like having that winning feeling, says Vince Gibson.

"When you have a good year in football, it carries over to the next season," says Gibson, who begins his fourth year as head coach at Louisville. "Your players start to get confidence in themselves. Last year was important to us—our players learned how to win."

The '77 Cardinals went 7-4-1 and earned a berth in the Independence Bowl. Thirty-three lettermen, including 16 players who started at least once, are back this season.

"This should be our best year yet," gushed Gibson. "The big difference is that we have a lot of experienced people up

front, and that's where football games are won."

Louisville's offensive line has five returning starters: Keith Autry, James Brown, Jeff Cully, Ron Heinrich and Rick Cruz.

Tight ends Marc Mitchell and Mark Besanceney both have graduated, however, leaving the spot to Ebb Williams.

Junior Stu Stram is the incumbent quarterback after firing for 455 yards and running for another 165, but strong-armed Terry Mullins could unseat him.

Whoever ends up at quarterback will have plenty of targets. Transfer Greg Searcy will compete with returnees Kenny Robinson and Jamie Perrin.

The backfield is solid with fullback Nathan Poole leading the way. Poole, who can bench-press 450 pounds, ran for 1,007 yards last year in 198 carries, a 5.1-yard average. Runt Moon will be the big fullback's running mate.

Defensively, the unit is paced by linebacker Otis Wilson, the Cards' leading tackler last year with 113 who was the outstanding defensive player in the Independence Bowl. Wilson will team with Ricky Skiles, Jim Embry and Eddie Johnson.

The line will be anchored by four-year starter Mark Pongonis. Jeff Henry, Louisville's second leading tackler last season, returns to his nose guard position. The other tackle spot could go to Joe Skarja, Ken Robinette or Dan Dihtzeruk.

Louisville's secondary was suspect last year but five players are back who started at least once. Zarko Ellis, Bob Norris, Ray Payton, Jack Gallagher and Greg Gibson all return, while junior college transfer Kevin Hill should challenge for playing time.

Matt Mager, a reserve last year, probably will inherit the placekicker's role with Mark Blasinsky handling the punting chores.

NEVADA L-V (9-2)

Despite the return of 49 lettermen and 16 starters from the team that fashioned a 9-2 mark last season, University of Nevada Las-Vegas coach Tony Knap is very cautious when he says, UNLV "will be more solid than it has been since I have been here, here, but after looking at the '78 schedule, I can only say that it will be an honor and a privilege to be on the same field to compete with such teams as we have lined up."

The Rebels, who will compete in the Western Athletic Conference as an independent until 1980, have plenty of able performers back to continue Knap's winning ways. (18-5).

A fine corps of receivers lead the way. Brian Harris and Henry "Veroom" Vereen lead the pack. Harris was the top Rebel pass-catcher last year, nabbing 45 aerials for 663 yards and six touchdowns. Vereen hauled in 31 for 629 yards (20.3 per catch) and five scores. Vereen also led the team in returns, averaging 20.4 on kickoffs and 6.8 on punts.

Carton Kelly, who passed for 1,015 yards in a backup role last year, will inherit the quarterback slot.

The rushing game retains its Nos. 2, 3 and 5 men, but there's a lot of slack to be picked up now that Raymond Strong (843 yards, 5.9 average) has graduated. The men who will have to do the job are fullback Brian Cobb, who ran for 318 yards last year, Russell Ellis, who had 208, and Brett Davis, who added 182.

The offensive line features Jack Concannon, Art Plunkett and Greg Spencer, the latter a three-time letterman.

The defense will be led by tackle Randy Rizo, defensive back Aaron Mitchell, linebacker George Sherwood and deep back Pat Cason.

Las Vegas gave up 243 points last year, but thanks to an offense that scored an even 300, the Rebels were able to post a 9-2 slate.

But it might be different this season as Las Vegas' schedule takes on a new and much more difficult look. Added to the log are such toughies as Washington State, Colorado State, Wyoming and Brigham Young.

NEVADA-RENO (8-3)

Coming off back-to-back 8-3 seasons, head coach Chris Ault and his staff had their most successful recruiting season to date. Combine that with the return of 30 lettermen, including 1,000-yard rushing Wayne Ferguson and the Wolf Pack's football fortunes for '78 look bright.

Nevada-Reno finished second in the nation in offense (498.2 yards per game) and scoring (38.3 points per game) last year and wound up the season ranked fifth in the final Division II poll.

But this season UNR ventures into the Division I-AA ranks and faces two Division I-A teams, Nevada-Las Vegas and Fullerton State on the road.

Nevada-Reno's offense will be led by quarterback Larry Worman, who backed up All-America Jeff Tisdel last year. Worman threw eight of 16 (with three TDs) in very limited action.

Worman will be handing the ball off to Ferguson, the workmanlike running back who gained 1,128 yards in 200 carries last year (5.6) and scored nine touchdowns, to boot. Also on hand is fullback Frank Hawkins who toted the ball 88 times for 486 yards (5.5) last year. Freshman phenom Derrick Thomas will push Hawkins for the fullback job.

When Worman throws, more than likely it will be to wide receiver Jeff Wright, the most prolific pass catcher in UNR annals. Last year Wright caught 45 balls for 825 yards (18.3) and scored six touchdowns. Among the missing, however, will be tight end Steve Senini, who had 37 receptions for 806 yards (21.7) and nine TDs last year.

Holding forth on the offensive line will be center Curtis Rudd, guards Tracy Hieber and Stan McCoy and tackles Art Chandless and David Hann.

The defense has former All-Coast selection Alex Willis at one cornerback with Howard Dodge bulwarking the linebackers. Defensive guard Carl Selden is a mainstay up front who will team with freshman recruit David LeMay. Also returning up front are James Curry, Steve Kenyon, Mike McGowan, Don Smerek and Greg Willis.

Joining Dodge at linebacker are Ron Atkinson, Travis Harper and Russ Musselman.

Besides Willis, the secondary has lettermen available in Bob Bingham, Steve Dankworth, Tom Foster, Mark Henderson and Mickey Lucas.

Nick Pavich (38.9) again will do the punting with Fernando Serro (35-46 PATs) in charge of the placements.

NE LOUISIANA (2-9)

The return of the entire defensive unit is the major cause for optimism at Northeast Louisiana University where coach John David Crow begins his third year.

Other pluses for the Indians include a new stadium, a more favorable schedule and the return of nearly all of 1977's players at the offensive skill positions. But the biggest plus for the Indians would be the assurance that last year's unprecedented string of bad luck and tragedy won't be repeated. The No. 1 quarterback quit a day before fall practice started, a team manager was electrocuted while helping move a coaching tower and then, in the team's second, third and fourth games, Northeast lost a starting quarterback to injury. A total of 13 players — all first or second teamers — suffered major injuries or illness in '77 that caused them to miss a total of 50 games.

Crow's main problem is the offensive line, where he must replace four starters. Most of the backs return, led by Kirby Arceneaux and Bud Cespiva at quarterback. Cespiva saw the most action, completing 31 of 74 passes for 440 yards and running for 183 more, but Arceneawx, a former defensive back, wound up the season as the starter.

John Floyd, an All-Southern Independent choice, led the team with 30 receptions for a 19.1 yard-average and four touchdowns and also paced the club in scoring (30 points), punting (38.3 avg.) and punt returns (10.5 avg.). He was a virtual one-man gang.

Robert Johnson, Nathan Johnson and Greg Schaff, the top three from last year, lead the infantry.

The defensive unit is headed by linebacker Harold Thompson, who set the school record with 175 tackles and assists, and an excellent secondary featuring David Dumars and Vic Minor, each of whom had five interceptions, and Roy Bonion.

Up front the Indians have Jeff Walker, Jay Marse, Gary Hurd, Warren Simmons, Mark Valentine, Ricky Isaac and Darwyn Anderson.

"We feel like we can be a lot stronger on defense," says Crow. "Any winning program starts with a solid defense and we think we have made some progress here. Offensively, we must rebuild our line. In the backfield, we've got pretty good speed but we're small and we're hoping some of our freshmen can help us there. Our receivers need to be more consistent."

NO. TEXAS ST. (9-2)

The Mean Green, winners of 14 of their last 17 games, enter the '78 campaign with ample pluses to remain optimistic for a fourth straight winning season. But after finishing with a 9-2 mark and the first top 20 finish in North Texas history, coach Hayden Fry had better do more than just post another winning season. Success, after all, breeds expectation.

Thirty-four lettermen (out of 50), including 13 starters (five on offense and eight on defense) are back in the fold.

Not surprisingly, with eight starters back, most of the positives are on the defensive side of the scrimmage line. The traditionally tough Mean Green "D" should thus remain so, especially in view of the depth inherent in having 18 of the top 22 players in uniform again.

The defensive unit is blessed with super performers, not the least of whom is linebacker Burks Washington, the team's leading tackler. Other stalwarts include three members of the blue-ribbon line: tackle Reginald Lewis, who, despite 6-5, 270-pound size is cat-quick; tackle Marvin Hagan and end Mark Beaty. Jimmy Odoms also will be back at the other end (unless he's switched to middle guard.).

Frank Babb, another regular, joins Washington at linebacker while the secondary boasts strong safety Danny Whitaker and right corner David Morris.

Nearly all the rebuilding for Fry and his staff will deal with the offense. Gone is the veteran quarterbacking combo of Ken Washington and Ken Smith. Also, tree-top tackles Paul Martin and Gary Smith and

guard George Lewis are missing. In addition to the QBs, the Mean Green has vacancies at the "skill" positions of running back and flanker. Some of the gaps can be filled quickly by moving some experienced back-up players around, but there's no clear-cut solution at quarterback.

"Offensively, we have to get somebody ready to take control at quarterback," says Fry. "And we need to find a breakaway runner for the backfield."

Among the top 20 seniors in '77 were kicking specialists Don Fechtman and Iseed Khoury. Fechtman ranked in the nation's top 10 in two of his four seasons as the punter. Khoury, in three years of placekicking, booted 70 of 71 extra points, including 61 straight. He also had a record 62-yard field goal.

Says Fry: "We lost a lot of skilled athletes, particularly on the offensive and kicking teams. But things are by no means desperate. I think we have built the program to the point that we have a continuing nucleus of athletes to draw from."

PORTLAND STATE (7-4)

Coach Darrel "Mouse" Davis, with a 23-10 record and three straight NCAA Division II passing and total offense championships in as many years at Portland State, found the key to continued success at the end of the season.

Struggling a bit early, Davis turned the ball over to freshman signal-caller Neil Lomax and watched the wireworks begin. Lomax, who had completed 16 of 31 passes in the first half of the season, uncoiled his rifle and hit 86 for 150, including 16 touchdown passes and just two interceptions in the second half. In the final game, a 56-36 victory over Montana State, Lomax completed 41 of 59 passes (six for TDs) for 469 yards, breaking the school record set the previous year by June Jones, now with the Atlanta Falcons.

PSU has averaged 37.5 points and 492.2 yards per game over the past three years under Davis and the scoreboard explotions should continue this year. Five regulars return to the offensive line, including wide receiver John Urness (27 catches), an Academic All-America. Mike Wagner, Randy Skaggs and Matt Reid have started up front for the past three years, and sophomore Kurt Ivanoff figures to move right in. The passing game again should be productive.

At the key fullback spot in PSU's double slot will be sophomore Joel Sigel, who spelled starter Jeff Salta last season and out-averaged the senior, 6.0 yards to 4.7 on 66 carries.

The defense will be spearheaded by left end Rick Cartasegna, tackles Charley Brown and Russ Graham, and secondary starters Bob Province and Kevin Keeler.

Davis took only six JC's among his first 25 recruits, sticking mainly with Oregon prep standouts, including eight Shrine Game all-stars, three of whom were linebackers — Mark Peterson, John Heiser and John Modispacher.

"Mouse" also added seven freshmen offensive linemen, with Matt Lawrence and Jack Corbett the best bets to push for starting jobs.

Kevin Modica and Steve Calhoun are a pair of 6-4, 240-pounders counted on to bolster the defensive front.

SANTA CLARA (2-7-1)

Youth and inexperience summarize Santa Clara's personnel this year but head coach Pat Malley is painting an optimistic picture.

"We will have a better team than in 1977," promises Malley, simply.

Despite the fact that only 27 lettermen and 10 starters are back, Santa Clara expects improvement via an infusion of freshmen and junior college transfers who are being counted on to make an immediate contribution.

Offensively, the Broncos will greet San Jose City College transfer running back Marc Rebboah, who'll join Roger Pinder and Tony Gahee. Pinder was the Broncs third leading ball carrier a year ago while Gahee was No. 4.

Battling for the No. 1 quarterback spot vacated by John Hurley will be Mark Arvay, who started four games in '77, soph Dave Alfaro, who saw slight duty, and freshman Mike Heinrich. Arvay connected on 43 of 83 passes (51 percent) for 526 yards and one TD. However, he had 10 passes intercepted.

The Broncos should have a good offensive line with the return of tight end Doug Cosbie, who had 31 catches for 517 yards; tackle Jim Leonard; and guards Tom Bordenave and John Mirch.

Leading the pass receiving candidates are Ron Cummings and Tom Peterssen.

"Defensively," promises Malley, "we will be better in the secondary with transfers George McGowan, Mark Eastland and Tom Sheppard joinging holdover backs Jarrett Morris, Dru Donatelli and Tony Madden."

"We need several more good down linemen," Malley admitted. Back are Keith Wardell, Ross Malinowski, John Minahan and Leif Williams.

Linebacking should be a team strength with the return of Mike Gonzales, Fred Lampe and Dan Farrell. Another top linebacker prospect is all-league Mira Costa College transfer Dennis Sullivan.

The Broncos should be in good shape in the kicking department with the return of soph Brian Sullivan, the team's leading scorer in '77 when he hit 17 of 19 PATs and four field goals. Sullivan also is expected to handle the SCU punting.

In late August the Broncos also will welcome a host of incoming freshmen, several of them top prep standouts.

SO. MISS. (6-6)

Unlike a year ago when there were five established stars on hand, including ace running back "Go-Go" Garry, the 1978 Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles are somewhat of a no-name team. "I guess you would say we have a bunch of budding stars," said head coach Bobby Collins.

One among the 34 lettermen (14 starters) who has enjoyed a bit of notoriety is junior linebacker Clump Taylor, the team's leading tackler last year with 134 stops.

Collins' defense should be better than a year ago since eight regulars return. On the line he'll have nose guard Thad Dillard along with tackles J.J. Stewart and Joey Warren. The ends will be Sonny Abercrombie and Mike McKinzie.

Joining Taylor at linebacker is Freeman Horton, working on his fourth letter.

The secondary returns intact with Hanford Dixon, Mike Crenshaw, Gary Holt and David O'Dom back for another season.

Offensively, there are more problems. The loss of Garry, who finished as the school's and the state's all-time leading rusher, is bound to be felt. Also missing is regular fullback David Hosemann. Garry's 219 rushes and Hosemann's 163 accounted for 81.8 percent of the running attack and their combined results (1,740 yards) accounted for 84.4 percent of the net product. Garry also led the team in scoring — 60 points on 10 touchdowns — and was second in receiving.

The Eagles have high hopes for Tiko Beal as Garry' replacement and Calvin Jones as the new fullback. Beal filled in for Garry and finished with a 4.2-yard average in 49 efforts. Jones had 66 yards and a 3.7-yard average.

Collins is optimistic about the quarterback situation. "We've got both of our starters back," he noted, " and the added year of experience for both has to mean a lot."

Dane McDaniel and Jeff Hammond not only share the quarterback spot, they also share a room — as travelling roommates.

The receiving crew is intact. All wide men and both tight ends return. A bright future is predicted for soph tight end Marvin Harvey who had a phenomenal 31.2 yards per reception average for his 11 catches.

John Cannon should keep his hold on the split end slot and Chuck Brown will be a third-year starter at flanker.

The offensive line, due to the loss of three regulars, must be rebuilt. Tackle Randy Butler and guard Terry Brown return but David Parrish, Butch Smith and Greg Ahrens will have to move into starting roles.

Randy Boyette again will take charge of the placements with Mike Wright back to do the punting.

TEMPLE (5-5-1)

Temple certainly had its hills and valleys last year, indicated by its win over Drake by a 42-0 count and the Owls' embarrassing showing against Pittsburgh, 76-0. Since the schedule is pretty similar in '78, the Owls will probably have some things to hoot about and other things to hide in the closet.

Coach Wayne Hardin has 37 of 47 lettermen back but will have to replace quarterback Pat Carey. Brian Broomell saw action in 10 games last year but must improve his accuracy, as he completed only 40 percent of his passes. He'll be joined in the backfield by Anthony Anderson (756 yards) and Mark Bright (5.8 average). Zachary Dixon waits in the wings.

Steve Watson and Wiley Pitts are the top pass catchers. The tight end position is still up for grabs but Curt Parvin is probably the best bet there.

Fritz Benson, Bob Brewer, and Barry Collins form the nucleus of a strong offensive line and should give Hardin a sound foundation to build from.

The defensive corps is led by linebacker Bruce Gordon and tackle Colin McCarty. Sam Sakocius, Seth Demberg, and Bob Verrrelle are also back to consolidate the front wall. Tom Modafferi is the only other linebacker with experience.

The secondary lost a couple of good players, but Mark McCants, Rich McCoy, and Joe Rosati cannot be taken advantage of too easily.

The punting chores will be handled by Casey Murphy, whose 42 yard average last year inspires confidence. The placekicking post is up in the air and no one has emerged as a confident booter thus far.

Hardin is pleased with his team's outlook. "Our kids have worked very hard in the off-season conditioning program. I think we've worked very hard in practice — harder than any spring I can remember. I think we'll be better with our first 22 people than we have been, but our depth is still a big problem."

Hardin adds that although Broomell has been accorded the edge at quarterback, he won't hesitate to insert the backups, probably consisting of Tony Bonitatibus, Tink Murphy, and Ken Rowe.

Besides Pitt, Temple must face nationally-ranked Penn State and the Owls don't figure to be in that game either. However, they were competitive with most of the other clubs who they've scheduled and Hardin could possibly expect a victory

or two more this year if matters proceed according to plan.

VILLANOVA (4-7)

There are no smoke signals from the campfire of Villanova head coach Dick Bedesem about his 1978 Wildcats. After a sunshine-filled winning season in 1976, the skies turned gloomy and gray, full of clouds, in 1977. And the fourth year coach peered hard for a silver lining.

"After an optimistic outlook at this time last year, I was totally disappointed with the outcome of our season," he said of his 4-7 record. "Altogether, the team played well against good opposition, but the overall feeling was one of total embarrassment."

The 1977 team did just fine on offense, garnering over 3,000 yards while pushing its way into the top 20 major colleges in rushing offense.

The key to this vast sum was fullback Vince Thompson, who piled up 977 yards in ground assaults with a 4.2 average despite missing all of one game and part of another.

Prospects look very good in the backfield with every starter returning, including soph Pat O'Brien, the ECAC's Rookie of the Year, at quarterback. O'Brien's arm took a back seat to his feet as he ran for 524 yards and a 4.9 average out of the Wilcat wishbone. With O'Brien and Thompson are halfbacks Charlie Gross and Greg Bedesem. Gross averaged 6.5 yards a pop while Bedesem checked in at 5.5.

A wide receiver, Dennis McCauley returns as the top man from a year ago with letterman Paul Columbia inheriting the tight end position from graduated Steve Koenig.

The interior five has been depleted with the loss of both tackles and one guard. the best of what's left is two-year starting guard Chet Zalesky and center Pat McEvoy. Early last fall McEvoy beat out Chuck Lodge, the AP's incumbent All-East center.

Howie Long, a 6-4, 250-pound middle guard, and Dan Driscoll, a linebacker, make up the nucleus of the Villanova defense.

The corps was hard hit with the loss of three secondary lettermen, two linemen and a linebacker. Defensive back Steve Plastek, however, is Villanova's most experienced player as a three-year starter. Joining him will be a newcomer, Bernie Hober, who was the team's second leading receiver during the regular season.

Gus Fernandez and Dave Bauer, the team's placekicker and punter last season, have graduated, leaving both jobs open.

VIRGINIA TECH (3-7-1)

"The most certain thing about 1978 Virginia Tech football is that the schedule is plenty challenging," says Bill Dooley, new Athletic Director and head football coach of the Gobblers.

Dooley, who had great success leading North Carolina's Tar Heels for 11 seasons, has quite a job to do at Virginia Tech. The institute has had just three winning seasons in the last nine, and as Dooley moaned, the schedule this year (Alabama, Kentucky, Clemson, Florida State, Auburn, among others) is not conducive to an immediate improvement.

"We don't have a timetable," warns Dooley. "I'm sure that measurable progress is going to require patience."

Offensively, Dooley plans to use the "I" with defenses "multiple."

Although the Gobblers return 55 lettermen from last season, there are some key holes that must be filled. Roscoe Coles, Tech's all-time leading rusher, has departed with a fistful of records and last year's top defensive player, linebacker Rick Razzano, also has graduated.

Coles' departure has sparked a fierce battle for running back spots. Dennis Scott, who held a starting spot in Tech's wishbone last year, is the most experienced candidate, but Kenny Lewis, a member of the 1978 USA track team, could well inherit the spot instead.

Last year's late season sensation — fullback Mickey Fitzgerald — is back and will be counted on to produce significant yardage. Fitz picked up over 500 yards in just five games last season.

The remainder of the offense returns virtually intact. Three-year letterman Leonard Walker, an offensive guard, anchors an all-senior front. Ellis Savage and Ron Zollicoffer look like the top two receivers. Savage had 23 grabs last year to lead the club and Big Z was second with 13.

David Lamie is back to quarter the offense but Dooley will demand a better passing performance than last year's 40.2 percent effort.

The defense will miss the leadership and talents of Razzano and noseguard Bill Houseright, but there are some pluses.

Two-year starter Mike Faulkner, back after missing the '77 season with a knee injury, teams with Doug McDougald to give Tech a strong pair of tackles. Faulkner's return also frees the return of Danny Hill to noseguard.

Gene Bunn and Gary Smith anchor a seasoned secondary, but there is little in the way of experience at linebacker and defensive end. JUCO All-America Nate Parker could figure prominently at linebacker.

The kicking game returns Paul Engle, but someone must be found to take over the punting duties.

WAYNE STATE (7-4)

Dick Lowry and his staff face a rebuilding job as 20 of the 39 lettermen have graduated, leaving the 1978 edition of the Tartars a hungry unit as newcomers battle for playing time at many positions.

Most of the starting offensive backfield is returning, led by senior signal-caller Jim Gendron, who led the squad in total offense in '77. He rushed for 306 yards and passed for 463 more. However, he must improve his 48 percent completion rating.

Two experienced tailbacks, Randy Alexander (331 yds.) and Moe Dozier (228 yds.), supply the speed while Bruce Nichols (504 yds.) is the fullback.

The middle of the offensive line will have new people but the tackles are solid with juniors Mike Britt and Jeff Kovach.

There are a lot of holes to fill defensively, as eight players who received either all-league or honorable mention last season are gone.

Senior defensive tackle Jerry LaPointe will lead the unit along with sophomore linebacker Brian Van Gorder. Last year's most improved players, Mark Shimmel and Terry Johnson, anchor the secondary.

Duane Lockhart returns to handle kickoffs and placements while Tim Duffy is back to do the punting.

The Tartars had their best recruiting year since 1974, and it appears they needed it. Lowry has compiled an impressive 30-12 mark at WSU, but his percentage should fall a few points after the '78 season, which may not be all that successful.

WM & MARY (6-5)

William & Mary registered its second straight winning season last year and while the Indians were slowed by injuries, they finished strong by winning their last three games.

W&M head coach Jim Root anticipates the strong finish of '77 to continue right into 1978.

"We have an outstanding group of players returning," says Root. "The seniors on this team will be the young men who, as freshmen, got in an awful lot of playing time for us."

Leading the 20 returning lettermen is two-time honorable mention All-American Tom Rozantz at quarterback and All-ECAC wide receiver Joe Manderfield. Rozantz was not quite up to past standards last year, completing only 45.2 percent of his passes for 1,280 yards and seven touchdowns. Twelve were intercepted. Manderfield was the consistent deep threat, catching 32 balls to lead the club while posting a fine 19.6-yard average to go along with his three scores.

"Tom Rozantz is unquestionably one of the best quarterbacks in the country," insists Root, "and he will lead our veer option attack."

With many fine receivers returning, William & Mary can be expected to pass even more than usual this year.

Graduation has taken some players from the offensive line but overall, the Indians should be as strong or stronger up front than last year. Among the big names are center Mike Kneidinger, guard John Cerminara and tackle Dudley Johnson.

The Indians, however, must come up with a viable ground game to support their obvious air supremacy. The top two ground gainers of a year ago have graduated, leaving both running back spots up for grabs.

Defensively, the secondary was hardest hit by graduation, losing all of last year's starters. The Indians have lettermen for all positions, but starting experience is limited.

The defensive front looks solid as does the linebacking. The two deep tackle slots return intact and standout Melvin Martin is back for his final year at defensive end.

The linebackers and middle guards have all been starters a good portion of their careers, led by three-year regular Jim Ryan at the strong side linebacker.

"Though we have graduated a fine group, I feel very good about the folks coming back; and I'm optimistic about the 1978 season," concludes Root.

YOUNGSTOWN (7-3)

When you return 37 lettermen and 18 starters from a 7-3 team it's not unrealistic to want and expect more.

"Our football program has arrived at the point where a 7-3 record should be expected on a yearly basis," says Youngstown head coach Bill Narduzzi. "When you consider that seven wins in 10 games means you were successful 70 percent of the time, then that to me is just a little above average. I will keep reminding our players that they have a 30 percent margin of improvement."

YSU put 275 points on the board last year to set a new school record, and since only a guard has graduated, it stands to reason that the Penguins will have an explosive offense.

The attack again will be directed by quarterback Keith Snoddy, who threw and ran for 1,222 yards total offense.

Marschell Brumfeld, the team's leading rusher (493 and a 4.1 yard average) also was quite adept at finding the endzone, crushing for 15 touchdowns. He returns as

does Robby Robson, a 453-yard producer with a 4.5-yard average last year.

Along with that trio in the Penguins backfield, YSU will add flanker Jim Ferranti who last year caught 47 balls for 690 yards to finish 12th nationally. The "Flea" is being touted as All-America timber.

The Penguins offensive line is a big one (246-pound average) and will be anchored by tackles Tom Farina and Jeff Lear. Ed McGlasson, a third-team All-America, returns at center. Gary Letera and Steve Brooks will be the guards.

The defense was a young one last year but seemed to jell near the end of the season and much is expected in 1978. Sam Barbera, Terry Ditmer and Tom Harder are expected to hold forth up front with Greg Fitzgerald leading the way at linebacker. Fitzpatrick is another pointed for post-season honors after leading the team in tackles two of the last three years.

Fitzpatrick's sidekick will be Bob Lombardi.

YSU's secondary will be bolstered by the return of cornerback Tom Jaros, safety Kevin Statzer and corner Larry Grist.

Chuck Haynali, who converted 32 of 33 PATs, will take care of the placements.

Youngstown joins the newly-formed Mid-Continent Conference this year along with Akron, Northern Michigan, Eastern Illinois, Western Illinois and Northern Iowa.

Plus . . . .

EAST TEXAS ST. (7-4)

A rebuilding job of sorts faces East Texas State coach Ernest Hawkins (84-57-5) as he views the ruins of an offense that will be without its total offense, passing and receiving leader.

Gone is quarterback Terry Skinner, who threw for 1,942 yards and 14 touchdowns last year while also topping the club in total offense. His favorite receiver, Dannie Rogers (47 catches for 952 yards, a 20.3 average, and nine TDs), also has graduated.

Replacing Skinner will be the most difficult of tasks since his backup, Eddie Cox, also walked the commencement line, and there are no other established signal-callers available.

The ground game, however, again should be potent, thanks mostly to tailback Mike Richardson, the Cats leading rusher in 1977. Richardson ran for 1,095 yards in 231 attempts (4.7-yard average) and scored eight touchdowns. His running mate, fullback Calvin Washington, has departed, leaving the job to Mike Comer, a 195-yard producer last season.

Wingback Lonnie Cunigan will be top receiver now. Cunigan caught 35 passes for 552 yards (15.8) and two scores last season.

Up front, Hawkins will look for leadership from center Ramiro Lucio, an All-Lone Star Conference pick and a starter since his freshman season. Joining Lucio will be guard Robert Hinkle and tackles Steve Washington and Monty Woodall. All were starters last year.

The Lions' defense should be strong with the return of eight regulars from last year's staring 11. The key loss is linebacker David Farris, the team's leading tackler last year.

The line will be paced by ends Fred Alexander and Don Jones with Tommy Nobles returning to man a tackle position. Tough noseguard Al Davis will be replaced by Toby Allen and there are a bevy of candidates for Joe Petrino's tackle position.

With Farris having graduated, the linebacking corps will be headed by Glenn Blackard, the team's No. 4 (statistically) tackler.

The secondary should be the strength of the unit with the complete return of last season's sophomore unit. Free safety Brian Jackson led the unit with five thefts. He'll be reunited with strong safety Rex Fox, and cornerbacks Eric Johnson and Ron Smith.

Tom Hay, who connected on seven-of-11 field goal attempts and 31-of-37 point afters, is back for placements.

GRAMBLING (10-1)

With the graduation of All-America quarterback Doug Williams and receivers Carlos Pennywell, Mike Moore and Robert Woods, the Grambling State University air attack will be subjected to trial by ordeal in 1978.

Coach Eddie Robinson, moving into his 37th season as Tiger head mentor, may be forced to transform his own brand of ozone lightning into a thunderous, ground-gobbling overland attack.

Williams passed for 8,411 yards and 93 touchdowns in four years with the G-Men, so Robinson, who has won a record 18 years in-a-row, probably will cast his lot with a team that runs the pigskin more than it passes.

Robinson has 42 lettermen from last year's team and additionally is cheered by the fact that four promising athletes who encountered academic deficiencies prior to last season, now are back in the fold.

Six starters are lost off the offensive unit while only three will be AWOL from the defense.

Only guard Charles Owens and Wayne Price are missing from the '77 offensive line that allowed just five quarterback sacks on 373 passing attempts. Mammoth tackles Worney Boswell (290) and Gerald Ridge (285) will man the tackle spots, with Jeff Hudson returning to center. Jerry Johnson probably will inherit one guard spot with "messenger" guard Thomas Thompson likely to get the nod at the other.

Junior College transfer Robert Ambers, who was redshirted last year, appears to be the favorite for Williams' quarterback spot.

David Butler should win the tight end slot with Mike Smith inheriting wingback. Gilbert Culpepper, Chuck White and Edward Campbell will vie for the split end position.

The return of fullback Edwin Hall, ineligible last season for academic reasons, boosts Grambling's ground fortunes. "He's a real horse," says Robinson. "He's stronger than a hydraulic jack and can run the football as well as anyone we have had here in several years."

While Hall's return is welcomed, Robinson may have to worry about how to use him in a tandem with Robert Parham, the soph who averaged nearly six yards a carry and never lost a yard in 70 attempts. Speedy Floyd Womack likely will step into the starting tailback spot.

Defensively, the only losses are All-America end Russel Hall, cornerback James Smith and middle linebacker Calvin Bates.

Hall's spot will go to Troy Thomas, the team's leading tackler in '76 who missed last season with academic problems. Charles Lewis, Bruce Radford and Joe Gordon will beef up the front wall.

Eugene Hall and Guy Prahter return to outside linebacker posts, and they'll likely flank Aldrich Allen, the heir to the MLB position.

All-America Charles Johnson heads up a talented corps of interchangeable defensive backs. James Williams, Clifford Freeman and Kerry Parker complete the quartet.

HOWARD PAYNE (2-8)

A year ago, coach Dean Slayton had but four seniors on the team and he was concerned with a lack of experience. He was right. The Yellow Jackets won only two games, but that was twice as good as the year before when Howard Payne won just once.

The problem facing Slayton this year is not one of experience, but of expertise. Gone is super wide receiver Larry Nelson along with crack running back performers Willie Phea and Bryan Hargrove.

But the pluses seem to outweigh the minuses this year as 15 starters and 20 lettermen (out of 31) return. The offense will be built around quarterback Craig Smith, a junior, and sophomore fullback David Thomas.

Kim Gray is a sure-handed and good-sized (6-2, 210) tight end.

The offensive line is spearheaded by three-time letterman Benjy Unger. Don Kelso and Harold Gaines are other stalwarts along with center Jim Ryan. Coach Slayton considers the offensive line as one of the team's major strengths.

Howard Payne will be looking for offensive balance from its pro-veer and multiple attacks.

Seven starters are back on defense, headed by second-team All-Lone Star safety Stafford Breed. Floyd Graham will join Breed in the secondary with help coming from the likes of Mark Randolph, Don Carter and Maurice Prince.

Paul Talbert is an incumbent at linebacker and he'll match strides with Howard Hale and Robert Hunter, two more regulars from a year ago. Danny Moss may move into the one vacancy.

Robert Berryhill and Woody Martin bulwark the line with 245-pound Johnny Rowe as possible on either front.

Depth, a problem last year, could be Howard Payne's asset this season, but HPU still has a lot of questions to answer.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY ST. (5-5)

Thrifty-five lettermen, including 16 starters, are back for the Delta Devils, but they'll be directed by new head coach James T. Thomas. In addition, Ben McGee is the new defensive coordinator and Ray Jordan takes over the offense.

Second-team All Southwest Athletic Conference quarterback Melvin Williams is back, and Thomas expects him to match last year's figure of 1,675 passing yards. Maurice Griffin and Lloyd Farmer offer relief help should it be needed.

Speedster Donald Doaty (4.4 speed) and Anthony Rhone will be the wide receivers, but steady Bo Flowers has graduated and there is a void at tight end.

Running back can also be troublesome for the Devils, for after Henry Bush there isn't a proven ball-carrier. Charles Davis, Bob Powell, and Ricky Carson are the hopefuls.

The line has plenty of size, but Thomas knows the individuals have to block as a team. All-SWAC tackle James Williams leads the parade, with Charles Cleves, Carl White, Fredrick Jackson, and Steve Chapman being slated to see lots of action.

The secondary of Willie Fulton, Larry Harper, Hubert Owens, and Jessie Stegall appears to be the defensive stronghold.

Tackle William "Gator" Kinnard is an All-America candidate and will force teams to run away from him. Jim Sankfield, James McGruder, Wharlest Jackson, and Rodney Amos will provide the hits that Kinnard misses.

Three-time All-SWAC punter John Standfield returns with his 42.2 average. Placekicking is a question mark, and Thomas has to place someone there, along with some linebackers and sound substitutes all around.

The Devils' first five games are on the road (including Jackson State and Southern U.) and that is a demanding ordeal.

Thomas has reorganized the system and will employ a 5-2-4 defense and will install the pro set from the pro-I, sometimes called the multiple offense.

Although his squad isn't considered one of the favorites in the SWAC race, Thomas is optimistic, saying, "We could surprise some people if we stay healthy and get a few breaks here and there."

He also knows that the Devils have to be more defensive-minded this season, and that seems to be the determining factor in whetehr or not Valley will be heard from.

TEXAS A&I (9-1-1)

Texas A&I has compiled one of the all-time best collegiate records over the last four years. The Javelinas have had a 46-1-1 record during that span, have won three NAIA national championships and have taken four Lone Star Conference titles.

The team won 42 games in a row before being tied early in the 1977 season and went through 46 consecutive games without a defeat. The victory streak is the second longest in collegiate history.

But most of the players who played roles in the great win streak are missing this fall. There are six offensive starters and five defensive starters back around which Fred Jonas and his staff must try to build another winning record. And the roster includes only 19 lettermen.

Included in the offensive lineup are Martin Stroman and Elvis Hartsfield, the two men who shared the quarterbacking role last year.

And also back is Darrel Jackson, 6-0, 168-pound sophomore who figures to have a say-so in the battle for the starting quarterback slot this year.

Bryan Sweeney, flanker, returns along with tackles Billy John and Randy Friedrich and guards Mark Dizdar and Wade Whitmer.

Also returning after a one-year tour in the junior college ranks is Ricky Smith, 5-10, 215-pound running back who was one of the top Javelina players as a freshman in 1976.

Defensively, three of the returning starters are in the secondary: safety Don Washington, cornerback Raymond Waddy, and Randy Brooks.

The other starters are Raul Rodriguez, tackle, and Andy Hawkins, linebacker.

The Javelinas brought in several junior college transfers at semester and have had a good recruiting year in the high school ranks. These newcomers will have to play a key role in the team's fortunes this fall if the Javelinas are to contend for a fifth straight conference title, and their fifth consecutive national ranking in the NAIA poll.

And . . . .

Teams listed alphabetically

ALBANY STATE (9-2)

Head football coach Bob Ford is hoping this 1977 team's advance to the semi-finals of the NCAA Division III playoffs will whet the appetite of the returning 1978 squad.

Fifteen starters, seven on offense and eight on defense, are back from the team that posted nine straight wins and went to the playoffs last year.

In general, the '78 Albany State model, should differ little from the successful '77 edition. Quarterback Brad Aldrich again will lead the Danes, passing to split end Scott Lusher and tight end Ed Sellers. Lusher led the team with 22 receptions and a 22.4-yards per catch average.

The Danes' leading rusher, Sam Halstion, returns after rambling for 989 yards and a 7.3 yards per carry average. He'll be joined by fullbacks Mike Mirabella and Bill Ruggles.

The offensive line is stable with only one replacement sought.

The defense is strong up front with the return of tackles Steve Shoen and Dave Mathis and ends Jim Dignan and Ed Tranholm.

The linebacking and secondary crews have been depleted, especially the latter.

Also among the missing are punter Mike Marrin and placement expert Larry Leibowitz.

ALFRED (4-5)

A couple of narrow defeats (7-6 to Brockport and 17-14 to Hobart) kept the Saxons and coach Sam Sanders from a winning record, but enough talent returns for Alfred to achieve that goal this season.

The Saxons will be led by the pass-catch brother duo of Bob and Bill Schuster and the running of Jimmy Bundy, the second most productive rusher in Alfred history. Just a sophomore, Bob Schuster flashed his brilliance in Alfred's second game of the season last year, firing touchdown lobs of 5, 45, 46 anf 47 yards to equal the Saxon record.

His brother Bill led the team in receiving, snaring 27 balls for 415 yards and five TDs.

Bundy, meanwhile, gained 904 yards on the ground in 194 carries, a 4.7-yard average and scored four times. He will make a strong run this year at the Saxon single season mark of 1,012 yards.

Among the missing will be Al Newton, Alfred's all-time interception king, and punter Jay Ewanich, an honors recipient.

AMERICAN INT'L (5-4-1)

With four high-powered backfield members leading the way for 16 returning starters, the 1978 Yellow Jackets will have more veteran experience than coach Bob Burke has enjoyed in either of his previous two years at American International.

Mark Strange, who ran for 695 yards with a 4.7-yard average, will combine with Tony Bostick (395/4.9) and Bob Bramble (270/8.2) to give quarterback Ray Borup three alternatives other than the pass. In all, seven starters return to the offensive unit.

With nine starters back on defense, the Yellow Jackets should have the nucleus for a fine unit. Mike Phillips will head the defensive platoon.

Also returning will be both kickers — Jim Vallis, who connected on 21 of 25 PATs, and Tom Kelliher, the punter.

AUSTIN COLLEGE (1-8)

Austin College head coach Larry Kramer is counting on an experienced offensive line and a dynamite running back duo to turn the Kangaroos football fortunes around.

Paul Solomon, the Kangaroo stalwart tailback who led the Texas Intercollegiate Athletic Association in rushing in 1976, was injured in the second game of last season and did not play another down. But this year Solomon is healthy and will be helped by fullback Bob Simeone, who led the team in rushing last season and was a second-team All-TIAA performer last season.

The Kangaroos will have 17 starters back from last year's disappointing 1-8 team, seven on offense and 10 on defense. Heading the defensive returnees is Trent Payne, who led the team with 96 tackles in 1977. Another strength should be the defensive backfield, which returns intact.

The Kangaroos will have good speed and strength in the offensive backfield with Solomon, Simeone and Karl Meisenbach, who as a freshman last year gained 500 yards as a parttime starter at quarterback and was named "Freshman of the Year" in the TIAA.

Size will be no problem on the AC offensive line, as it is led by 255-pound Julius Bell and robust Brent Hollensed. The defensive line will be held together by Stanley Hillman and Mike Gollahon.

BALDWIN-WALLACE (8-1)

Led by the return of last year's top passer and rusher, Baldwin-Wallace coach Lee Tressel again should have a fine team at the Berea, Ohio complex. But then, winning is nothing new to Tressel, the Ohio Coach of the Year in '77, who led the Yellow Jackets to victories over NCAA Division II champion Lehigh and two other nationally ranked teams on the way to the 1977 Ohio Athletic Conference Championship, captured with a 14-7 victory over number one ranked Wittenberg.

Senior Joe Surniak is bakc at quarterback. Last year he connected on 53.2 percent of his passes in leading the Yellow Jacket attack. The ground corps features fullback Roger Andrachik, who ran for 975 yards and nine touchdowns while compiling a 6.3 yards-per-carry average.

Paul Ernst, the team's leading receiver and second most productive rusher, has graduated, but Jose Tirado should prove an excellent target for Surniak. Last year Tirado caught 18 passes (one less than Ernst) and had a 12.3 yard average.

Up front, Tressel will look to veteran linemen Tim McManon and Scott Collart.

Defensively, the Yellow Jackets have Duke Flaherty, Paul Petrella and Bill Davis on the line; Gary Monda at linebacker and Gary Stelter and Bill Baker in the secondary.

Tim Robinson will handle the placements with Doug Schiefer in charge of punting.

BLOOMSBURG ST. (4-5)

Ron Puhl will be losing 15 key players from last year's squad but feels that there are plenty of solid returnees and the Huskies have a chance of getting over the .500 level, which would make it the first time since 1970.

The defense finished second in the eastern division of the Pennsylvania Conference and it should be Bloomsburg's strong suit once again. Among the starters who are back are linebackers Howie Gulick and Doug Pfautz, end Kurt Pettis, tackle Chucke Meyer, and deep backs Chris Betterly and Rob Keyser. The loss of Academic All-America linebacker Lou Sannuti will pose a problem.

Running back Mike Morucci (100.6 yards per game) is the central offensive figure and he shares the spotlight with quarterback Joe Perrotti, a 53 percent passer. Craig Meyer and Jim Linn are strong linemen, but Puhl is trying to find some talent for the other spots.

Wide receiver Ed Bungo and tight end Ken Zipko will be Perroti's main targets and they've proven that they can get open frequently.

Anticipation is high among Bloomsburg's fans and they should see a competitive and exciting team.

BOWDOIN (4-4)

Experience is the reason coach Jim Lentz is optimistic about Bowdoin's football fortunes this year. The Polar Bears have lost only seven starters from the 1977 team that won its third straight CBB (Colby-Bates-Bowdoin) Conference Championship.

Unfortunately for Lentz, one position he'll have to fill is quarterback where Jay Pensavalle has graduated. Bruce Bernier and Tim Marotta will try and fill the void.

The running game will feature the inside thrusts of fullback Tom Sciolla, Bowdoin's leading ground gainer in '77. Sciolla notched 524 yards and had a 4.4 yards per carry average. Tailback Trip Spinner and wingback Rip Kinkel also return.

On the offensive line, Lentz must replace split end Rich Newman, who caught 25 of Bowdoin's 55 completions last year, and tackle Steve McCabe, a Kodak Division III All-America. This

year's offensive line contingent will be led by co-captains Dave Regan, a guard, and center Phil Pierce.

Defensive lapses allowed opponents to average 382 yards total offense per contest against Bowdoin last year and Lentz is hopeful of rectifying those statistics. He'll have four of last year's front five back to help accomplish that task.

The linebacking corps is headed by Drew King, who goes after his fourth letter.

The backfield will be built around returning cornerbacks Mark Hoffman and Larry Lytton.

Peter Geannelis is the punter despite a less than spectacular 32.5 yard average and Alfie Himmerlich, who booted 15 of 17 PATs and was successful on his only field goal attempt, is the placement specialist.

BOWIE STATE (3-7)

Coach John Organ elected to go with youth last year, and while his team paid the price, such experience gained can only help the Bulldogs this season.

Darrell Prince, just a freshman in '77, saw the most action at quarterback, completing 59 of 125 aerials (47 percent) for 582 yards and five TDs. Joining him will be another freshman flash of a year ago, running back Duane McCoy. Teaming with McCoy will be Mike Moore, a senior who led the team in rushing.

Allen Roots returns at tight end, but last year's two premier receivers, Tony Cosby and Rickie Simmons, have graduated.

Defensively, the Bulldogs rely on "Twin Dynamite," identical twins Keith and Kevin Coates. Both play end.

BRIDGEWATER (6-3)

Bridgewater State will build this year's team around the talents of returning quarterback Scott Armstrong and running back Al Collaruso, a pair of juniors who do most of the offensive damage for the Bears.

Armstrong was the team's total offense and passing leader while Collaruso headed up the ground corps. James Lauzon, Nathan Carr Tom Woods, and Matthew Blake are being counted on to open up the holes up front. Jeff Finan, who had 26 catches and four touchdowns last year, returns to his role as leading receiver.

Coach Pete Mazzaferro will have to fill wholesale losses on defense created by graduation if the Bears are to have another successful New England Football Conference campaign. Linebacking is the major concern where only Don Cann returns.

Tom Hilse is the mainstay on the defensive front along with Jeff Hawkins.

Richard English is the most experienced hand in the defensive backfield

Hernani Branco (9 of 11 PATs and 3 of 5 FGs) is back for the placements while David Hickey (34.8) does the punting.

Bridgewater won with its defense last year (87 points in nine games for a 9.7 average) but the offense will be expected to carry a larger load than last year when it scored just 106 points (11.8 average).

BROCKPORT ST. (4-5)

Third year coach Bud Sims is optimistic about the Golden Eagles of 1978 despite the loss of eight starters from last year's gritty team.

Offensively, Sims has eight regulars back, including the entire backfield. Quarterback Karl Ulrich will be handing off to Doug Fredericks, a former All-State (New York) running back of which much is expected this year. Also on hand will be fullback Fran Riddell, who was sidelined with an injury much of last year. Bob Smith and Jim Bennett also are available.

Although the receiving corps lost leader Ken Nelson to graduation, the Golden Eagles have competent hands in Gordon Glose, Roy Voliton, Bill Hannifin and Rusty Hess.

Joe Foley and Mark Mirand are the two returning veterans up front.

Defensive losses have been more significant, graduation claiming five regulars. Strength of this year's squad should be the linebackers where transfer Tom Cleary is expected to head a unit that also features Glenn Pepe, Sam Schimizzi, Fred Bence, Kevin Guyette, John Rath and Charles Walker.

The defensive line will be anchored by vets Don Colerick and former JC All-America John Siliano. Mike Hyland, Tom Palmer, Dan Sullivan and Dan Tschiderer lend support.

In the secondary, the lone returnee is safety Tom Cauley. Mark Schanzer, Rick Willet and Ray Billips are expected to make contributions.

Tom Grable is back for the placements with Jim Bennett handling the punting chores.

CAL. LUTHERAN (9-2)

After riding the arm of John Kindred, the receiving of Harry Hedrick, the running of Al Staie and the kicking of Brad Hoffman to the finals of the NAIA Division III Championship last year, coach Robert Shoup must go it with a much different cast this time around. In all, 30 players are gone from last season's 9-2 team and a complete overhaul of the offense is required!

But Cal Lutheran has a tradition that suggests the Kingsmen's ability to consistently produce fine football teams. Over the past 10 years, for instance, Cal. Lutheran is an impressive 81-17-3. The past four years have been even better; 37-5. So it is with some optimism that coach Shoup assesses this year's crop.

There are several promising quarterbacks in Bruce McFadden, Mark Christensen, Kent Puls and Gary Dworshak. Only McFadden has any experience. Kindred, who tossed for some 2,500 yards. The balance of the backfield also is somewhat inexperienced but has more speed than last year. Dennis Hauser and Ken Bower, along with transfer Tim Blackburn and Herbert Graves will try to fill the void created by the graduation of Staie (616 yards rushing and a 5.0 average per carry).

Mike Hagen's 49 catches tab him as one to watch among the receivers, but Hedrick, who caught 62, will be missed.

The offensive line will be remodeled around tackle Tom O'Brien and guard Mark Weber, a pair of seniors with All-District credentials. A half-dozen aspirants will vie for the other two jobs.

The picture is somewhat brighter on defense where a trio of All-District performers return. Linebackers Dan Buckley and Sid Grant with halfback Steve Bogan are proven ingredients. Inexperience marks the secondary while a lack of depth and size shows up in the balance of the team.

Punter Kent Puls is welcomed back while placekicking auditions for filling All-America Brad Hoffman's shoes will include Paul Odden and Dan Buckley.

Shoup, who came to CLC in 1962 and has achieved a 118-34-3 record in that period, will be put to the test this year.

CAL POLY POMONA (2-8)

A strong defense wasn't enough to rescue an impotent offense last year but Cal Poly Pomona coach Jim Jones hopes a change in systems might stimulate some scoring.

"It's no secret our offense was non-existent last year," he said. "This year will be different. We're going to the wishbone — the offense I coached in high school.

Quarterbacks Sammy Ross and Gordy Bohannon will be expected to run the wishbone after being primarily passing quarterbacks last season. Bohannon was the more active aerially, hitting 86 of 155 tosses for 957 yards and seven touchdowns.

A batch of ball-carriers return, but based on last year's statistics, there is much room for improvement. Pomona averaged less than two yards per rush last year.

Keith Chappelle, Pomona's leading receiver a year ago, returns, but the offensive front wall must be firmed up.

Defensively, the Broncos will rally round a trio of outstanding linebackers, including Scott Pickwith Jay Giangregorio and Dominic Licavoli.

CANISIUS (5-2-2)

Coach Bill Brooks has eight regulars back on offense from last year's 5-2-2 team but must replace wide receiver Dave Wolff (19 catches for 389 yards) and tailback Mark Kavanaugh (second leading rusher with a 5.3 yards-per carry average) if the Golden Griffins are to have another outstanding year again.

Top offensive returnees include fullback Ed Wolowiec who had 569 yards in 131 carries for a 4.3-yard average, and quarterbacks Jerry Mann and Kevin Karwath, who shared the signalcaller's role last year.

Mark Lloyd, the second leading receiver with 16 catches for 252 yards, returns at flanker while Pete Baumgardner and Dave Lasky are back at tight end.

The offensive front is bulwarked by guards Ken Rusin and Paul Schoeneck and tackles Ken Tillou, Tom Taylor and Herman Wooten.

Five starters are gone from last season's defensive unit and only Mike Gee (DE) and Ron Stein (MG) are left on the line. Lack of depth could be a problem in both the line and linebacker areas. Jim Gollegly, a two-year starter, returns at one linebacker spot.

The secondary is solid with three returning starters.

Kicking is a strength with the return of punter Gary Newton and placement specialist John Sopko, both sophomores.

CAPITAL (5-4)

Eleven seniors have graduated from coach Gene Slaughter's 1977 team, leaving quite a few holes to fill, including the entire secondary. On defense, the Crusaders also will be looking for a pair of defensive ends.

Among the names to watch are Tom McCurdy, an All-Conference selection, and tackles Mike Lancaster and John Phillips. Matt Whitmer and Tim Hall should hold forth at linebacker. Capital's defense against the run was excellent last year (just 3.0 yards per carry) but opponents were able to throw against the Crusaders (52.5% completions). With four new faces in the defensive backfield, Capital foes may look that way again.

The offense returns virtually intact, with the exception of tailback Bruce Carter, the Crusaders' leading ball carrier in '77. A freshman may have to assume Carter's spot.

Dave Cotner and Bob Craven did most of the infantry work last year (along with Carter) and both will be looking to improve upon mediocre stats. A veteran offensive line could aid Capital's quest to better last year's 2.8 yards per carry rushing average. The big names up front are John Buda and Don Laipple, both tackles.

Much is expected of Chad Raymond, the junior signal-caller who paid his experience dues last year. Raymond threw for six touchdowns but had nine intercepted. His favorite targets, Jay Mossbarger and Kevin Rodenberg, return.

The kicking game is the sole domain of Brian Speelman who both punts and handles placements.

Coach Slaughter, now in his 18th campaign, is concerned with the Capital schedule. The Crusaders must play conference (Ohio Athletic) opponents and national powers Baldwin-Wallace and Wittenberg on their rivals' home fields and also have games with Muskingum, Otterbein and Wooster, all nationally ranked Division III teams last year.

CARSON — NEWMAN (3-7)

Ron Case is the new head coach and one of his objectives is "to instill an attitude of team pride." He believes unity and pride go a long way, but it might not be enough to achieve a winning season.

Case is switching to the veer attack and has done away with the Power-I. He has several solid running backs to utilize, with Vann Williams, Terry Benjamin, and Charlie Johnson set to see extensive duty.

Two strong-armed passers, Danny Sanders and Tonginfelter, and an impressive rusher, Brad Payne, will battle it out for the quarterback job.

Tank Black, Tim Gaines and Kent Harrison pace the wide receiving corps, while Jim Smith amd Gary Graves share the tight end position.

The offensive line lacks depth, but vets John Stewart, Lee Cardwell, and David Root are back.

Except for the linebacking, the defense is a little shaky. Jim Ward, Cory Thomas, Billy Brimmer, Tony Scoggins, Bob Atchley, and Barry Southerland compose the linebacking contingent, and Case is very pleased with them.

However, up front can be a problem, unless Tim Keepers, Bill Walker, and Paul Maynard, and Tim Cathey start making some noises.

The secondary is not settled, as Ron Gartrell, Jim Carpenter, David Bennet, T.C. Ferguson, and Mark Duff hope to impress the first-year mentor.

The defense is the main concern and unless it can give a surprising account of itself, Case's initial season at C-M will probably be a losing one.

CASE WESTERN RESERVE (5-4)

After winning no greater than four games in the last decade, Bob Del Rosa, in just three seasons, has turned Case Western Reserve football fortunes around. The third-year coach led the Spartans to a 5-4 mark, 5-2 in the President's Athletic Conference. It was the team's best mark ever.

CWRU returns 37 lettermen, of which 14 were starters last year, eight on offense and six on defense. The Spartans return a devastating 1-2 offensive punch with halfback Kerry Williamson, a two-year All-PAC choice and quarterback Cliff Wilson. The "Double W" combination accounted for over 1,400 yards in total offense as Williamson finished second in the league in rushing. Wilson, a three-year starter, led the loop in passing.

Receivers Al Malik and Cliff Whitman help the aerial game go while Rob Kittridge, Eric Hall, Bob Grauman and Ted Olszewski hold fourth on the line.

The defense is spearheaded by linebackers Ken McIntire and Andy Katz. Big man on the line is All-PAC honoree Greg Neumanitis at tackle. Mark Ashba and Mike Rogan also return.

The defensive backfield is the major area of concern as graduation took a heavy toll. Cliff Coles saw plenty of action as a swing man last year and will play a big role this season.

Romeo "The Toe" Solano provides CWRU with a well-rounded kicking game, handling both punting and placement chores.

CATAWBA (3-7)

With 15 starters returning, coach Warren Klawiter thinks "we'll be a much improved and a much more experienced ball club."

Both of the team's All-South Atlantic Conference selections are back, as center Scott Gaines and defensive back Tim Rupert raring to go.

Other top returnees are running backs Wayne Foster and Ricky White, linebackers Ted Inscore and Alex Bryce, and secondary man Terry Cunningham.

The quarterback situation is on shaky grounds. Last year's starter, Joe Russo, reneged on his scholarship and backup Jack Blankenship transferred. Sophomore Mark Hess is the likely starter and transfer Bucky Tarr is available.

A list of strong freshmen include defensive tackle Pat Smith, linebacker John Buffaloe, and lineman Mark Tuck.

If the Tribe should achieve five wins this season, Klawiter and company will be moving in the right direction.

CATHOLIC U. (5-4)

Coach Joe Pascale's Cardinals, having earned a 5-4 record in their first season as a Division III participant, will be out to improve upon that mark even though five of the team's 1977 offensive and defensive leaders are graduated, including all-time leading receiver Terry O'Connell.

Returning, and thus insuring a potent passing attack, is quarterback Steve Stanislav who threw for 1,150 yards last year, although missing part of three games with assorted leg ailments.

Heading the running attack will be diminutive Sammy LoFaro, a 5-8, 160-pound tailback who rushed for 468 yards in 101 carries (4.6) last year. Brother Joe LoFaro has graduated, however, leaving the fullback spot open.

The defense again is young — sophomores Dave Muirhead, Mike Hubert, Matt Burgess, Jim Hollister and Bobby Fontana will all start — and must mature quickly.

Other problems for Pascale and Catholic is an upgraded schedule and a lack of depth.

CENTRAL COLLEGE (9-1)

The Flying Dutchmen will be without the main protagonists from last year's outstanding team when they open up against Northwestern at Kuyper Field.

Gone are Mark Vander Linden, Don Taylor and Mark Cramer, the mainstays of Central's powerful offense. Vander Linden, the quarterback, tossed for 1,612 yards and 14 TDs last year while Taylor led the infantry with 1,329. Cramer headed up the receivers with 34 catches for 556 yards.

Coach Ron Schipper also must replace both guards and the tight end if his offense is to be productive again. Major holdovers include fullback Jeff Lind, the Dutchmen's second best rusher, and Tom Vander Linden, younger brother of Mark. Like his brother, Tom is a quarterback. Tackles Paul Tanis and Jeff Menary join center John Goode as returning linemen.

Defensively, the picture is somewhat brighter with seven regulars returning. Three of the four vacancies are on the line, however, leaving Joel Van Berkum and Earl Hammond as returning starters.

Ken Davis and Chris Adkins are back at linebacker with Roger Hart, Chuck Bredlow and Randy Ripperger protecting the secondary.

Randy Baker returns to do the punting, but placement specialist Cal Swanson will be among the missing.

CENTRAL MISSOURI (3-7)

Central Missouri State was able to score regularly last year — and should again this season — but unless the defense is shored up, the Mules won't have much to kick about in '78.

The offense will be led by quarterback Bill Foster, who threw for 1,314 yards but had 19 intercepted. Foster's top receiver, Henry Mason, has graduated, leaving tight end Marcus Dixon as his major target.

John Theis, the team's second leading ballcarrier in '77, heads up the infantry. Fullback Dane Henningsen has departed, leaving that job to Don Fritsche.

Up front, the mainstays are tackles Pat Crowe and John Harris and guard Rob Alberswerth.

It was on defense that the Mules really had their problems. Central Missouri gave up an average of 25.4 points per game last year, but seven starters are back to try and improve on that statistic.

The line features Joe Biagotti, Keith Gray, Dee Robison and Andy White with John Stolt, Kim Eubanks and Steve Oberweather in the secondary. Both linebackers must be replaced.

CHEYNEY STATE (3-5)

Coach Billy Joe thinks the strength of the 1978 Cheyney State team will depend on three words: maturity, depth and recruits.

The Wolves were hit hard by graduation and will field a young and inexperienced team this season.

Offensively, the main strength of the team seems to be the backfield where depth and familiarity abound. Tyrone Balkum started as a freshman last year at quarterback and should benefit from the experience. Aaron Mitchell starts his fourth season at halfback and he'll be joined by Paul Fraser who finished the season with a 161 yard effort in just 12 carries. Wayne Russell is expected to get the tough inside yards.

The offensive line has starting experience but little depth. Gary Hames, Zen Wallace, Kermit Overton, Roy Brooks and James McQueen will supply the front line blocking.

The entire receiving corps has graduated leaving Joe with three holes to fill.

Defensively, the secondary was all but wiped out by graduation and the defensive line is thin. Up front, Wilson Lambert and Tom Inge are the men to watch, but some offensive linemen may have to be converted to insure proper depth.

Linebacking seems to be solid with all-conference Steve McCoy joining forces with Phil Tucker.

Cheyney specialty teams have been exceptional, not permitting a touchdown in the last seven years. Charles Johnson returns for the placements while Herb Southern is an all-conference punter.

CHICO STATE (6-2-1)

After posting their first winning season in four years, Wildcat followers are confident that "The Cat Is Back" for good at Chico State. The optimism stems from the return of 15 starters off last season's 6-2-1 squad which claimed second place in the Far Western Conference, losing just one (UC Davis) loop contest.

Directing the Chico attack will be Terry Stokes, a second-team All-FWC pick at quarterback in '77. Stokes tossed for 1,498 yards and eight touchdowns while leading the Wildcats in total offense.

Stokes will be operating behind a veteran line headed by guard Walt Wallace, an ALL-FWC selection last year. Joining Wallace will be Harry Reed, Chris Brooks, Tom Nord and Scott Palmer.

The receiving corps is headed by a pair of tight ends, Curtis Parks and Bob DeGraves. Parks however, will be shifted to wide receiver to better utilize speed that resulted in a 26.2-yard average per each of his 14 receptions last year.

The ground forces will be led by Clay Lindsay and Brian Anderson

Defensively, key returnees for the Cats are Titus Henry, Kenzie Gray, Louis Young and Charles Carter.

Henry was an All-FWC pick at noseguard while Gray received similar honors at tackle, after leading the Cats in sacks.

The strongest area of the Chico State defense may be the secondary, led by Young and Carter. Young blocked five kicks last year while Carter, dubbed "C.C.," was the most valuable Cat, hands down. Carter led the FWC in interceptions for the second year in-a-row and was ALL-FWC for the second straight year, too.

COAST GUARD (5-4)

Led by co-captains Rod Ansley on defense and Mark Feldman on offense, the 1978 Bears return with 38 lettermen, although among the nine starters not returning will be All-East linebacker Mike Gardner and running back Mickey Butler, Division III's fifth leading scorer in '77.

Offensively, the cadets will be led by Feldman, who threw for 1,075 yards and 11 TDs last year. Returning will be two of his favorite receivers, TE Vic Kelley and wingback Alex Simonka.

Up front, the Bears will look to guards Jay Butler and Bob Atkin, both All-East candidates. Bruce Hensel and Mark Guillory hold forth at the tackles. Dan Conty and John Ochs are the men to watch at center.

The backfield is bolstered by two fine fullbacks, Fred Pendleton and Jim Wright, with a quartet of aspirants, Scott Genovese, Tom McIntyre, Tony Radecki and Bob Spears, vying for the other running back slot.

Defensively, the cadets rally round linebackers Ansley and Dane Egli. On the line, the terminals are manned by Mike Amonson and Chalmers Brothers. There'll be a battle for the tackle spots.

The defensive secondary will be headed by Eric Amberg and Mike Bright with Robby Ogg and Rick Stanchi jousting for starting corner. Dale Chittendon has the other cornerback post.

The kicking will be handled by Orlando Cavallo (24 of 29 PATs and 2-2 FGs) but punting is a questionmark.

COLBY (1-7)

with the return of last season's top four running backs, Colby coach Richard J. McGee will be counting on an experienced offense to reverse Colby's recent football fortunes.

George Dolan, Mike Drouin, Steve Celeta and Joe Ciota racked up most of the ground yardage and all return to aid quarterback Frank Sears. For his part, Sears did throw for 1,039 yards, but his completion rate (.363) leaves plenty of room for improvement.

Tight end Reid Cassidy shook loose often enough to snarw 19 aerials average 20.1 yards per catch, and he returns. Todd Marble is another tight end in Colby's 5-2, double tight end veer offense.

In all, 22 lettermen will be back.

CSM (3-7)

With the loss of 21 players, including All-Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) safety Steve Hall, the Colorado School of Mines is looking to this season primarily as a rebuilding year.

Coach Marv Kay's 1978 Oredigger team will include 27 lettermen, 10 of whom were starters last year. Joe Albi will be the quarterback, surrounded by runners Jeff Woehrle, Biran Savage and John Claussen. Ron Powell is the best receiver.

The defense is led by Bill Zisch in the secondary, linemen Conrad Smith and Mike McKenty and linebackers Rick James and Joe Kottenstette.

The Orediggers had difficulty on both sides of the line last year, scoring only 150 points while surrendering 241. High point of the season was a 22-21 upset of conference bigwig Fort Lewis.

CURRY COLLEGE (5-4)

The Colonels will ride the arm of quarterback Bill Rumley, the sensational freshman find of a year ago who, despite not starting the first four

games of the season, threw for an amazing 1,050 yards, best in the conference, by far.

Rumley, a walk-on, broke the school aerial mark in Curry's final game as he threw for 279 yards. The win enabled the Colonels to register a 4-4 mark in the New England Football Conference.

Rumley's favorite target, split end Brian Forbes, returns for his senior year after snaring 33 catches for 445 yards last year.

The defense will be paced by junior linebacker Rich Padula, who, for the second straight year, led the team in tackles. Another junior, tackle Dave Berthiaume, was second in stops with 88 while recovering five fumbles.

The secondary is headed up by Bobby Rose.

C. W. POST (5-3-1)

Defense will be the name of the game in '78 as it was in '77 when the Pioneers posted a school-record five consecutive shutouts and finished second in the nation (NCAA Division III) in total defense yielding 144.3 yards per game.

This season, however, the going figures to be a little tougher as the Pioneers move up to NCAA Division II status and face what coach Dom Anile calls "the toughest schedule in Post's history." Included in the Pioneer's nine game slate are two defending national champions: Westminster (NAIA Division II) and Lehigh (NCAA Division II).

The defensive leader in '78, as he was in '77, will be end John Mohring, a first team College Division All-America last season. Aiding Mohring will be linebackers Jack Luchsinger, an honorable mention All-America, Tom Van Buskirk and Bill Bodkin. The secondary will be paced by backs Luther Williams, Andy Logue and Dehart Washington.

Quarterback Bob Perry returns to direct the offense but he'll be without his top two rushers — Larry Esposito and Mike Lewis — who have graduated.

The receiving corps boasts top man Bob Barrick, but defense, not offense, will dictate how successful the Pioneers are.

DELAWARE ST. (7-4)

The Hornets put together one amazing defensive stretch last year where they limited six consecutive opponents to just 15 points, including three straight shutouts, but many of the stars of that effort have graduated, leaving coach Edmond Wyche with somewhat of a rebuilding job.

The secondary was hardest hit, but replacements are available in Thomas Douglas and Shelton Smith. Connie Hilliard and Donald Robinson secure the right side of the line, but the left side must be remodeled. Mike Francis and David Crocker head the linebackers.

Offensively, Andre Brown is being counted on to make a comeback at quarterback while last year's freshman flash, Anthony Beamon, is the major ground force. Beamon rushed for 588 yards and seven touchdowns last year. The receiving corps is led by DeCosta Brown, who had 34 receptions for 606 yards and a pair of scores in 1977.

A team strength this year should be the offensive line where veterans Lawrence Houston, Dana Ford, Gregory Coleman and Curtis Clark all return to starting roles. Also on hand is gargantuan Rodney Arnold, a 6-4, 310-pound specimen.

DELAWARE VALLEY (2-7)

After opening up with wins against Farleigh Dickinson and Moravian, coach Al Wilson saw his defense desert him as the Agies dropped the next seven to finish at 2-7. Still, it was an improvement from the shutout (0-9) pitched by DVC foes the year before.

With his top rusher, passer and receiver returning, Wilson is hopeful that the upward trend will continue.

Aiding such aims will be running back Bill Mullen who led the Aggies in rushing last year with 609 yards, seven touchdowns and a 4.1-yards per carry average.

Ron Haraka starts his third season as Aggie signal-caller after tossing for 484 yards on 44 of 117 throwing last year. Delaware Valley coaches feel Haraka, who is just a junior, will be a very good one beofre he is through.

Split end Les Davies leads the receivers. Last year Davies had a team-leading 19 receptions for 291 yards and two touchdowns.

The Aggie defense will be paced by linemen Bruce Shickoya, Jack Mazak and Warren Robertson. Also on hand will be defensive back Keith Sipple, who led the team in interceptions and fumble recoveries in 1977.

EAST STROUDSBURG (6-2)

Defense should be the strong point of the 1978 football team at East Stroudsburg State College which has a remarkable 21-2-1 record over the past three seasons.

The Warriors have seven defensive starters back from last year's 6-2 team, headed by inside linebacker Jeff Johnson, the team's leading tackler and an All-Pennsylvania Conference choice the last three years.

End Bill Bergen and tackle Jack Shrawder also earned All-Conference honors. Joe Detzi, one of triplets on the team, is another defensive stalwart at linebacker, as is halfback and return specialist Fred Balina.

The team's offense must be rebuilt with the loss of four-year starting quarterback Mike Terwilliger and three-year regulars Harold Strunk, running back; Tom Palubinski, split end; and center Pat Flaherty. Strunk was exceptionally prolific, rushing for 913 yards (5.3) average while scoring 15 touchdowns.

Coach Denny Douds will choose among Tom Hart, Barry Kennedy, Tom Meier and Jim Villani for quarterback and will count on Dave Bingham to handle much of the running load. The tailback spot and all three receiver spots in the team's twin veer offense are wide open, however.

Up front, the offensive line will feature tackles Jeff Detzi and Art Boorujy.

The team's kicking game is solid with Jack Rogers (23 of 23 PATs) in charge of placements and Kennedy assuming the punting chores.

ELMHURST (5-4)

Coach Tom Beck welcomes back last year's freshman finds, quarterback Stan Walker and running back George Donald, but must do without his top two defensive players, linebacker Earl Wilcek who led the team in tackles and was named to the league's all-star team, and his mate, Mike Schramm, the second most effective stopper on the squad.

Offensively, Walker wound up second in the loop in total offense and third in passing. He threw for 750 yards (in seven games) on 55 percent completions and added 356 (3.9) yards on the ground. Donald, meanwhile, rambled for 811 yards (in eight games), had a 5.8 yards per carry average and led the team in scoring with 60 points (10 touchdowns).

Other key offensive performers include tackle Roy Casali and receivers Rich Hampton, Jack Alden and Chris Kelso.

Defensive stalwarts include tackles Don Hensel and Tom Raleigh and deep backs Steve Lake and John Batke.

ELON (9-2)

Having won the South Atlantic Conference title in his first year as head coach of the Fightin' Christians, coach Jerry Tolley sees a tough schedule as his team's major enemy this season.

"We have a very tough schedule to play," he admitted, "but if we can survive through those four straight away games, we'll be alright."

The offense will be built around returning starters Bobby Hedrick, Bob DeFrenn and Mike Currin. Hedrick led the team in rushing, blasting for 1,177 yards last year while DeFrenn chipped in with 703. Currin, the quarterback, tossed for 1,194 yards and five TDs but had 16 picked off. Nevertheless, Currin was the second-leading passer in the SAC last year.

The offensive line has lost some key personnel and is not expected to be as powerful as last year.

On defense, the Christians have but four starters returning. Coach Tolley summed things up by saying, "We will be better in the secondary and we could be more aggressive. I believe we will be better at making tackles this coming season also."

A poll of SAC coaches predicted that Elon would win the conference crown again this season. Presbyterian was seen as the competition.

E. TENN. ST. (3-8)

New ETSU football mentor Jack Carlisle is getting back to basics with the Buccaneers, saying, "We will start from absolute scratch. Every position on the team is wide open.

Carlisle's Bucs will operate out of the I formation and its variations while the defense utilizes a basic 5-4 system.

The Buccaneers' biggest need is for competent linemen — both offensively and defensively — while their strongest feature appears to be their running backs.

The aforementioned ground crew is headed by Greg Wilson, Jimmy Dykes and Ron Boyd. Wilson, despite missing three games with an injury, gained 705 yards in 122 carries for an average of 5.8-yards per carry last year. Dykes averaged 3.9 yards per carry while Boyd chipped in at a 5.3-yard norm.

Mark Hutsell and JC transfer Jeff Davis are battling for the quarterback spot. Hutsell did a creditable job last year, completing 55-of-102 passes for 795 yards and five touchdowns.

Mitch Davis, Keith Alley, Mike Bromir, Steve Meyer, Gary Colone and Johnny Reed hold forth on the offensive line.

The defensive line is spearheaded by Al Anderson. He'll be joined by James Mackey, Rick Begley and Linc Jarvis.

Doug Whetsel and Mike Smith are the starters at linebacker with Doug Carter, Jay Megna, Steve Trawick and Gail Livingston all returning to the secondary.

The Buccaneers also must find a punter to replace four-year starter Doug Parham if they are to improve on last year's 2-5 record in the Ohio Valley Conference.

FAYETTEVILLE ST. (3-7)

Only 17 players return from last year's disappointing 3-7 team, the second losing season in eight years for Fayetteville coach R.A. McDougal, and hopes for a reversal of this recent trend do not appear favorable.

The strength of the Broncos should be the offense where eight regulars return. The line features All-NAIA tackle Burnis Travis, center Lorenzo Grays, and guards Randolph Newkirk and Raymond Donnell.

In the backfield, fullback James Braswell returns, but a quarterback must be developed. The receiving corps is set with the return of tight end Ronald Wright and wide men Andre Sloan and Mike Smith.

The defense will have more new faces, both players and coaches. Returning starters include linebackers Tony Baldwin and Clarence Ashley, Ricky Furline, and line regulars Willie Gray, Stephen McNeil and Edwin Williams.

Kickers Chris Barfield, Kelvin Thompson and Larry McDonald also return for the Broncos.

FRANKLIN & MARSHALL (8-1)

Winning football is now a tradition at Franklin and Marshall.

In the last seven years, the Diplomats have won 55 of 62 games, had two undefeated campaigns, captured five Middle Atlantic Conference Southern Divisions, and won the Lambert Bowl in 1972.

But 15 seniors, who helped F&M win 32 of 36 games over a four year span, now have walked the commencement line and coach Tom Gilburg, who has compiled a 23-4 mark in his three years with the Diplomats, must do it all over again.

Gilburg will have quite a job to do, both offensively and defensively. Offensively, the task is to develop a quarterback and shore up the front line. Defensively, the need is to groom a new crop of prospects to fill the linebacking spots vacated by graduation.

Players to watch this year include center Pat Thorogood, fullback Ed Turner, linebacker Jerry Fiacco and defensive back Joe Fry.

GARDNER-WEBB (7-4)

Billy Kinard, former head coach at the University of Mississippi, and most recently with the Cleveland Browns of the NFL, is the new head coach at Gardner-Webb although old winning ways are again predicted for the Bulldogs.

The return of 30 lettermen, including 16 starters augurs well for optimism. Leading the list of offensive starters are quarterbacks Glenn Robertson and Dennis Stilley who combined for over 1,200 yards last year. They'll be joined in the backfield by Obbie Todd, a 492-yard producer last year, and soph Robbie Barnes, a rapidly improving dasher.

The offensive line should be strong with the return of four starters, including All-South Atlantic conference guard Jeff Carter and All-SAC tackle Mark Classen.

Marvin Oliver, G.T. Johnson and Marc Walker fill the receiver posts.

Defensively, the 'Dogs return seven starters off last year's outstanding unit that held 11 opponents to just 139 points.

Leading the defense will be linebackers David Howard and Mike Briggs, the top two tacklers from the '77 team.

The secondary also is particularly strong with the return of all four regulars. Curtis Johnson, Don Montgomery, Alvin Lee and James Simpson form the quartet.

Up front, Noel Wiseman, David Guthrie and Roy Kirby are the men to watch.

Mike Cox, G-W's all-time scoring leader, returns to do the kicking.

GEORGETOWN (2-7)

With 19 of 22 starters and a total of 29 lettermen returning, Georgetown head football coach Scotty Glacken has reason to be optimistic.

"Last year was one of the best offensive seasons that we ever had," admitted Glacken. "Our big question mark is the defense, but we have all but one starter returning there. The added year of experience should be a definite plus."

But the real plus should come from the offense, led by quarterback Bob Sitz, who broke all Georgetown passing records last year by hitting on 72 of 133 passes for 945 yards and seven touchdowns with only four interceptions.

Sitz' main target will be wide receiver Clayton Wagner, a former high school teammate who caught 34 passes for 551 yards last year.

In the backfield, the Hoyas lost their leading rusher in fullback Jim Boland, but there are many able bodies present, not the least of whom is Sitz, a 5.7-yard average runner last year. Joining him in the Georgetown wishbone will be Andy Murray, Andy Blood and Steve Scheurle. Their respective year-per-carry averages were 5.4, 6.2 and 4.8.

The offensive line is paced by center Joe Gaul, guards Dave Elliot and Keith McCormick, and tackle Rick Tranter.

The defense returns 10 regulars, with Dave Williams and Kevin Boland likely end starters; John Boland and Steve Kurker at the tackles and Mike Costa at middle guard.

The linebacking corps is headed by three-year-starter Paul Zimmerman, who has led the Hoyas in tackles for the past two years. John Mulcahy, back from a broken foot, also returns.

Cornerbacks Mark Granville-Smith and Marty Garofalo will merge with safeties John Davis and Bob Gorence to form the Hoyas' secondary.

GRAND VALLEY (7-3)

Grand Valley State football has come of age, and the man responsible, head coach Jim Harkema, believes his grid program is stronger than it's ever been in the seven years football has been played at the Allendale campus.

Harkema should know. Since his arrival, Grand Valley is 34-13-1.

This year, with 41 lettermen returning, including four All-Conference performers and four All-District selections, Grand Valley will be the team to beat in the Great Lakes Conference, a loop the Lakers took in 1977.

The biggest question mark facing Harkema is at quarterback. David Quinley and Mike Newhouse, a pair of sophomores, are in line for the No. 1 spot.

Harkema has two leading rushers in the Great Lakes Conference returning to sophomore halfback Will Roach and senior fullback Rick VanEss. VanEss totaled 894 yards and Roach 736.

The Lakers broke or tied 12 passing records last season, and on the receiving end were Don Stramaglia, Clint Nash, Michael Hearing, Rick Cunningham, Ted Dongvillo and Randy Rae. Also returning to the offense are tackles Joe Bosse and Ron Essink, guard Karl Nelson and center Bob Beaudrie.

The defense returns nine starters, including linemen Mack Lofton, Bruce Hendricks, and Kevin Rahrig. The linebackers are Mike Szczytko and Wade Bent with Mike Given, Wardell Sykes, Jamie Grignon and Joe Pollard in the secondary.

Grand Valley also returns kicking star Roger McCoy, who has booted 29 of 52 field goals and 73 extra points in his career.

GUILFORD (3-7)

It was the good news-bad news story at Guilford last year. The bad news was a rash of injuries wiped out a lot of the starters, but the good news was that unfortunate turn of events enabled the young players to gain experience.

The running duties will be handled by Greg Small, Chris Scissom and Gary Merrill, and those three should earn respect from the opposition. Manny Fernandez is the probable quarterback, as the senior was the number-one backup last season. He'll get pressure from Joe Osborne, Mike Bradley and Randy Smith.

Split end Avery Cutshaw (30 receptions, 467 yards) is a bona fide candidate for post-season honors. Gayland Welborn and Mike Craftwill share the flanker position.

Three starters return in the offensive line, center David Cubbage, James Dismuke, and William Hoyle.

Except for the secondary, the defense remains basically intact. Safety Greg Ferguson returns and Dee Bulla, Ray Scott and Jeff Roberts will be the other deep backs.

Roosevelt Moody is the top linebacker and he'll be teamed with Eric Holsonback and Morris McCarther.

There's an abundance of returning defensive linemen, including Steve Garris, Ron Massey, Joe Sazama, and Andy Collins. Transfer John Wrape should make a significant contribution, too.

Other newcomers who will help are William Branson and Dean Gravely.

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS (6-4)

Following a second place finish in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in 1977, the 1978 Gustavus Adolphus College football outlook is promising. Although the Golden Gusties graduated 12 seniors from the 1977 squad, including three All-MIAC picks, 15 regulars return to head coach Dennis Raarup.

On offense, starting fullback Jim Alker is gone, but quarterback Brad Baker (1,441 total yards, All-MIAC) returns for his third year. He'll be joined by running backs Jay Schoenbeck and Ron Straka. Schoenbeck gained 646 yards and scored eight TDs while averaging 5.5 yards per carry. Straka amassed 502 yards with seven scores and a 6.2 per carry average.

The offensive line is a veteran one, led by tackle Pat Baker and bolstered by the likes of receivers Gary Hill, John Huepenbaker and Greg Norgaard.

The kicking game is potent with All-MIAC pick Keith Bettes in charge of the placements while Baker does the punting.

Defense may be Raarup's concern, as three of four secondary personnel are gone, along with half the line. Bob Dehnke will lead the secondary with linebacking considered the team's defensive strength.

HAMILTON COLLEGE (2-6)

With 19 of 31 lettermen back from last year's 2-6 team, veteran coach Don Jones, now in his 28th year with the Continentals, has some reason to be optimistic.

What progress Hamilton makes largely will depend on the success of its ground game. Chief among the Hamilton rushers is co-captain Bill Romaine, a virtual one-man gang for the Continentals. Romaine garnered 645 yards on 157 carries last year, a 4.1 average and three times broke the century mark. Also, he ranked second among all Hamilton receivers with 20 grabs. And he established a single-game Hamilton record by gaining 206 yards against Colby, becoming the first Continental player ever to rush for over 200 yards in a single game.

Romaine will be aided by fullback Mark Annunziata, who gained 441 rushing yards last year, and halfback Jack Koelbl, who added 254. The starting quarterback, replacing, the graduated Tom LaFontain, likely will be Phil Greenough, who connected on 20 of 46 aerials while seeing limited action last year. Major receivers will be Romaine, Burt Fisher, Marc White and Steve Brooks.

Deep back Ricky Mobley anchors the defense. Last year Mobley led the team in tackles (73) and interceptions (three). He'll get deep coverage help from returnees Pat Wedlock and Jim Leeper. Linebackers to watch include Joe Saraceno and Bruce Treen while key linemen appear to be Jim Kizielewicz and Stancil Scott.

HAMPTON INSTITUTE (7-4)

Coming off back-to-back 7-4 seasons, Hampton Institute coach Walter Lovett has restored the Pirates' football fortunes and has developed the team into a contender for the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) title.

But there is plenty of reason to be cautious this go round. Although 39 lettermen return, Lovett must make do without 10 starters.

Four starters were lost from the starting defense that held five foes to less than eight points. Most prominent loss will be DE Reggie Doss, an All-CIAA, NAIA and Little All-America recipient. In addition, five defensive backs have walked the commencement line, leaving but one experienced starter.

On offense, record setting QB Russ Seaton and his favorite target, Reggie Midget, are gone along with a trio of starting offensive linemen.

Jenson Baker is the heir to the signal-caller's role while Donnell Jones, Lewey Hale, Howard Jackson and Willie Pair comprise the infantry.

Keith Johns, Leroy Jones and Frank Giles are penciled in as offensive line replacements.

The defensive line returns three starters, featuring hard-to-miss "Arrowhead" Ernie White, a massive 6-8 ½-302 pounder. He'll be joined by Brad Hauser and Darryl Grant. Victor South, out with an injury last year, will become a starter again this year.

The linebacking position appears in good hands with John Gamble and Calvin Felton returning. Transfer James Tucker may earn a starting position as well.

Don Rose is the only regular in a backfield stripped by graduation. A bevy of aspirants will vie for the other berths.

Rose will continue to do the placekicking with Eddie Allen punting.

HEIDELBERG (1-8)

John "Spez" Spezzaferro, at one time an assistant coach with the Pittsburgh Steelers, has been summoned by his alma mater to see if he can instill some winning habits into a team that has suffered miserably the past two seasons. The club has managed only one victory during that time period, so it's obvious Spezzaferro is undertaking an arduous taks.

The sole bright spot in recent years has been the performance of flanker Billy Taylor, a superb athlete. Taylor averaged 16.4 yards per catch in '77 and he did not have the luxury of having a pinpoint passer throwing to him, as returning quarterback Bryan Deal completed just 46 percent of his tosses. Taking some of the offensive pressure off Taylor will be returnee running backs Steve Fawcett and Kevin Bower.

Defensively, secondary man John Burtch roams the field well and defensive end Bob Bulnes is the main attacker up front. In wake of Heidelberg's showings, one can expect numerous changes under Spezzaferro and it's very unlikely a complete reversal will take effect immediately.

HOBART (7-2)

The Statesmen lose one-half of their incredible 1,000-yard duo that terrorized the League last year, but, as coach David Urick would no doubt agree, half a loaf is better than none.

Back, then, is Ed Cooney who rolled for 1,197 yards and six TDs. The "half" gone is Jack Davis, a 1,074 provider who had a glittering 6.5 yards-per-carry average.

Pat Tumulty won the quarterback job last year as a freshman and could improve on 30-for-62 passing with a year's experience. Of course, he's likely to miss Davis.

Don Terry, a massive 275-pounder, is the mainstay on the offensive line while Pat Brady is a regular at tight end.

Mike Greco, Don Roche, Brian Whalen, Tim Eden, Pat Cacchione, Jeff Knaus and Bill Sipperly are the men to watch on defense.

HOFSTRA (6-3)

Playing five games in the newly refurbished Hofstra Stadium (now equipped with "Super-Turf") and one date at the spacious and prestigious New Jersey Meadowlands will give the Flying Dutchmen a spanking new look for 1978.

It won't be all new for coach Bill Leete and his staff as 34 lettermen return including seven offensive and five defensive starters.

Top returnees include starting offensive backs Keith Huff (330 yards in '77), Ed Gebhardt, the squad's leading receiver last season, and offensive linemen Mike McHugh, Keith Lawless, Bill Etherson and John Walsh. Key offensive losses are quarterback Bob Girolamo and tight end Tom Cheslock.

On defense, the Dutchmen must rebuild the secondary and replace two outstanding defensive ends. Top returnees are nose guard Ken DiMicco, the team's quarterback sack leader in '77 with eight, linebacker Frank McNulty, who was second in tackles last year with 43 primaries, and defensive tackles Joe Farrington and Tom DiMassimo.

Honorable mention All-America and ECAC first team halfback Kevin Huff, who became Hofstra's first single season 1,000-yard rusher, was the Dutchmen's greatest loss due to graduation.

HOPE COLLEGE (6-3)

Hope College will be seeking a school-record seventh straight winning season under head coach Ray Smith in 1978. Since Smith assumed command of the Dutchmen in 1970 his Hope teams have posted a 50-20-2 mark.

Hope faces a major rebuilding job in the offensive backfield this year, having lost through graduation all-league (Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association-MIAA) quarterback Mark Boyce, fullback Bill Blacquiere and tailback Mike Skelton. Boyce completed 54 percent of his aerials and hurled 15 touchdowns while Bacquiere and Skelton combined for 1,350 yards and a 4.3 average. Replacing this trio will be Smith's first and most difficult task.

But the cupboard is not completely bare. Promising returnees include All-MIAA offensive tackle Craig Groendyk as well as three-year lettermen Kurt Droppers (defensive tackle), Doug Koopman (defensive tackle), Steve Prediger (defensive halfback) and Tim Lont (linebacker).

Greg Bekius, who booted 21 straight conversions in '77, is back for the placements.

HOWARD (5-5)

Howard returns 16 of 22 starters from last season's 5-5 squad that won four of its last six contests but disappointed many Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference grid followers with a fifth place finish.

An injury to quarterback Brian Thomas hampered the Bison offensive unit which produced only five touchdowns in the first four games. A healthy Thomas could make the difference this year. As a freshman, Thomas was 43 of 83 passing with 545 yards and 6 TDs, but was kept out of action early last year because of a shoulder injury. Thomas came back in mid-season and directed the Bisons to a 4-2 mark in his six starts by completing 60 of 122 passes for 1,002 yards and nine touchdowns.

Thomas' major targets, Steve Wilson (28) and Greg Scott (10), return, so coach Doug Porter may try to stress the aerial game. Also, James Breakfield, Howard's all-time leading ground gainer, has graduated, furthering the notion that Howard will pass a great deal this year.

Up front, guard Keith Napier and center Dan Ambrose will be missed but there are still several talented bodies available, including Mike Tarver, Ralph Grimes and Frank Reed.

Defensively, the Blue Machine returns 10 starters to a unit that recorded 41 sacks and posted three shutouts last year. Thomas Spears (6-4,275), an All-MEAC selection, is the mainstay on the defensive line. Leonard Stephens (6-5, 235) is another good one at end.

Linebacking, thought to be a weakness last year, turned out to be a team strength. Scott Facyson, Mark Thomas and Thomas Clark form the triumvirate.

Theodore Robinson, who made 51 tackles, blocked three field goals and one punt, is the star of the defensive backfield.

INDIANA U. of PA. (4-4-1)

Coach Bill Neal will have to stimulate a dormant IUP offense that averaged just 251 yards per game, including a feeble 94 yards passing per contest, if the Indians are to improve on last year's .500 record.

Working toward that goal will be 21 lettermen and 12 starters back from '77, a contingent headed by two-time All-America defensive end Jim Haslett and tailback Ed Gonzales, last season's top find who became the leading rusher with 523 yards and a 5.8 average per carry. Missing from the cast, however, will be Associated Press All-America linebacker Gregg Schmidt and a four-year starter at offensive tackle, Pat Imbrogno, an NAIA honorable mention All-America.

Gonzales will set the pace for an offensive that returns another half-dozen regulars, such as fullback Ken Stroup, wide receivers Guy Miklos and Jim Plowcha, tackle Bob Wolford, guard Tony Marciano and center Bill Vail.

Ted Condon and Bob McFarland will vie to take over the quarterback slot.

Also back on offense is kicker Kurt Bowers, who connected on half his 10 field goal attempts in '77.

Defensively, Haslett heads up a unit that permitted but 235.1 yards per game last year. However, only four other starters from that unit are back for the '78 campaign. Tackle Joe Cugliari, cornerback Mark Sartori, linebacker Dave Tate and end Mike Stewart are the holdovers.

ITHICA COLLEGE (6-3)

The 1978 edition of the Ithica College Bombers may just be the best one yet—and that includes the undefeated Stagg Bowl teams of '74 and '75.

That's a large assignment, but only three starters have graduated from last year's team and two of the three losses came against Division II teams and the third against C.W. Post, which will enter Division II this year.

Youth rules in the backfield with sophomore QB Steve Manning dishing off to junior running backs Matt Mees and John Nicolo. Steve Ludwig is the leading receiver.

Tom Burlin, a two-time ICAC All-Star heads up the offensive front. There's also tight end Terry Coholan and split end Bob Edson to help flanker Ludwing with the aerial chores.

The Bomber defense is led by captains Scott Colton and John Schiemann. Colton had eight interceptions last year—the Ithica secondary had 26—and won first team ECAC honors. Schiemann registered nine quarterback sacks and, like Colton, was an Associated Press honorable mention All-America.

JAMES MADISON (5-5)

With 43 lettermen, including 16 starters (nine on offense and seven on defense) back from last season's 5-5 team, coach Callace McMillin will be looking to nudge the Dukes over the .500 mark.

Offensively, John Bowers and Stan Jones return to run JMU's multiple attack I attack. Jones, the Duke's starting quarterback in '76, was injured in the second game last year and Bowers took over. He wound up leading JMU in total offense and scoring.

Fullback Shane Hast, the Dukes' leading rusher, has graduated, and tailbacks George Harris and Butch Robinson will have to carry a heavier burden. However, JMU's top quartet of receivers from a year ago all return. The foursome is led by tight end Ron Borders.

Regulars up front include Harry Angle, Rick Burkhart, Warren Coleman and Rick Booth.

Graduation took its toll on defense, stripping the Dukes of several multi-decorated and experienced players. Holding forth will be deep back Bob Logan, an A.P. College Division honorable mention All-America in 1976, and linemen Larry Smith and Ray Moore. Smith led the team in quarterback sacks with 11 while Moore blocked four kicks.

KENYON (4-5)

A wealth of returning offensive starters will try to offset the inexperience of the defensive unit as Thomas McHugh begins his inaugural season as head coach of the Lords.

Senior quarterback Terry Brog (70 completions, 972 yards and eight TDs) will lead the offense. He'll have top-notch receivers like split end Bill Samstag (25 receptions, 482 yards, five TDs) available. Also returning are wingback Roger Schott (23 rec., 346 yds.) and tight end Carlos Dague.

The ground force must be rebuilt and McHugh can start with fullback Jim Mazzella.

The offensive line is a veteran unit, guards Mike Smith and Roger Vaughn flanking center Greg Fedor with Dan Quinn, Ron Anderson and Andy Richards taking care of the tackle assignments.

On the defensive side of scrimmage, cornerback Dave Nees will head a sticky secondary that also features Greg Poe, Roger Pierce and Pete White.

Bill Piar and Tom Bentley will hold forth at linebacker but the line is in need of help. Middle guard Mike Svihra and tackle Tom Rickles are the only returnees.

LAWRENCE (8-1)

Lawrence University's accomplishments outweighted its shortcomings in 1977, but the loss of several outstanding receivers, a talented placekicker, and a much more difficult schedule, will make it hard for the Vikes to match last year's record.

Quarterback Jim Petran is back to lead the potent Lawrence attack (1st in NCAA Division III scoring offense). Petran connected on 147 of 269 passes (.546) for 1,783 yards and 20 TDs, second highest total in the nation.

Petran's leading target, Ron Wopat, has graduated, but Paul Gebhardt, as evidenced by his 56 catches for 1,009 yards last year, is a formidable receiver. Gebhardt earned honorable mention Little All-America honors last year, but has indicated that he may not return to school this year. If he does not, then LU's passing game will be greatly injured.

Frank Bouressa, a Little All-America center, anchors a solid offensive front. Tackle Scott Roper, like Bouressa, was an all-conference selection last year.

Rob Stevens, Tim Sievert, Mike Gostisha, Bruce Barkwell and Joe Pahr give the Vikings a solid infantry.

The defense will rally round a pair of all-conference selections—tackle Bob Eddy and linebacker Greg Linnemanstons. Most of the defensive line and backs are returning, but defense wasn't Lawrence's strong suit last year.

Coach Ron Roberts has some uncertainty in his kicking game with the departure of the Vikes' all-time leading placement scorer, Jeff Reitz.

A re-alignment of the Eastern Division of the Midwest Conference places Lawrence in the "stronger" division. "Any team could win it," points out Roberts, "and I don't think any team will go undefeated."

LIVINGSTON (2-8)

1978 will be a rebounding year for the Livingston University football team. Second-year head Coach Jack Crowe saw injuries decimate his squad last year in his initial campaign. He watched his team go 2-8 overall and 1-7 in the Gulf South Conference, the worst Tiger finish since 1960.

The emphasis is on youth this year. LU has only eight seniors and twelve starters back from last season. Crowe will have almost 50 lettermen (including eighteen freshmen who lettered last season) to build the nucleus of a credible ball club.

Offensive starters back include center Paul Teague (All-GSC in 1977), guard Ricky Ford, tackle Doug Palmer, split end Jimmy Black, tight end Lynn Shreve, and fullback Frank Lindsey.

Black is the man counted on by Crowe and his staff to ignite the offensive fire for the Tigers. Last season he caught 23 passes for 3 touchdowns.

Defensively, returning starters include tackle Gabe Heeter, end Mike Green, linebackers David Dean and Curtis Coleman, cornerback Steve Birchfield, and free safety Stan Talley, who missed 1977 due to knee surgery but was a starter at cornerback in 1976.

The main area of concern is the replacing of four-year starters Ricky Seale and Willie Slater at quarterback. This duo compiled over 5,000 yards between them and accounted for 49 touchdowns.

Four soph's, Bobby Moore, Dale Palmer, Steve Flowers, and Ricky Hendricks, battled it out for the role as the number one signal caller. Moore, the only letterman in the bunch, has the edge.

James Mullinax returns to hold down the number one kicker position. He has totaled 125 points in his career and needs only 24 more to become the all-time career scoring leader at LU.

Soph Alan Duncan did a credible job last fall in his first season and should hold down the punting slot again this year.

LOCK HAVEN (5-5)

The outlook for a winning season at Lock Haven is the best in 13 years, since the 1965 Bald Eagles posted a 5-3 mark, the last time the Crimson and White tipped the .500 barrier.

Back from last season's surprising 5-5 team are 34 lettermen, including 14 starters, eight on offense and six on defense.

Heading the offensive returnees is tailback Steve Housler, the freshman flash who rewrote the record book with 1,058 rushing yards and a single game mark of 225-yards in the Eagles' 18-16 upset win over Indiana Univ. of Penna.

Also back is quarterback Dan Spittal, an 81-for-154 tosser in '77, who hurled 10 touchdown passes, too.

Aiding the ground game and complementing Housler will be burly (6-2, 235) fullback Charles Lucas, a dependable inside runner and good pass receiver.

The offensive line features tight end Bill Sementelli (16 catches for 216 yards); wide receiver Jim Hall (7 for 129); tackle Brian McBryan; and guards Jim Patells and John White.

On defense, the entire line is back: Jim Dressler, Willie Manville, Bruce Shomgard, Bob Narducci, and Dave Hess. None are seniors.

Mark Cittandino leads the linebackers with Brian Morrow, who had six thefts last year, the best of the defensive backs.

MAINE MARITIME (5-3)

Coach Bill Mattola is counting on a strong running game in his team's quest for the New England Football Conference crown. Last year, the Mariners finished second in the loop.

Junior fullback David DelCamp and senior halfback Mickey McGuire are the main reasons Mattola is expressing confidence in his infantry. DelCamp was the leading rusher in the NEFC last season and made the national rankings in both the NCAA (Division III) and NAIA. He gained 872 yards, a 109-yard average and 4.6 yards per carry mark per game and rush, respectively. McGuire, meanwhile, was hampered by injuries but still managed to average 4.2 yards per carry in six games. Reportedly at 100 percent again, McGuire provides MMA with the breakaway threat so vital to DelCamp's and the team's success.

Mike Verrill is No. 1 at quarterback, although heralded soph John Heselton is certain to play,too. They'll be looking for tight end Bob Murphy and split end Dave Potter, holdover starters from last year.

Providing the pass protection and opening the holes will be tackles Paul Perry and Terry Edwards, a pair of honors candidates.

The Maritime defense will be built around the line which returns all of last year's five regulars. Jeff Knapp Rich Kenney, Frank Leach, Paul Savasuk and Tony Theriault comprise the unit. Mattola's chief concern is with the linebacking and secondary crops where graduation has taken a very heavy toll.

MANKATO ST. (6-2)

Coach Al Sandona has almost his complete offensive and defensive starting lineups back for another year and good tidings are predicted for the Mavericks again in 1978.

On offense, quarterback Kal Kallenberger will be hard to replace, but Bruce Graham comes highly recommended. Two top rushers, Ricky Garrison (447 yards) and Brad Holinka (458 yards) return behind an experienced offensive line that has Ray Anderson at center flanked by guards Brian Mauer and Mark Frank, with Neal Cummings and Randy Wills at the tackles.

The receiving corps is paced by tight end Bob Fleming (22 catches for 16.6 per catch average), and wide receivers Scott Mayes and Tom Mundy.

Defensively, most people return, but Sandona is moving some around. Wally Bartz is at noseguard again, with Duane Dixon, Phil Driscoll and Lon Johnson taking line spots. End Mike Heffron has been dropped back to strong safety. John Northenscold, a transfer from South Dakota, is high on Sandona's list. Linebackers Lee Edwards and Ken Johnson return to starting roles with the secondary anchored by Dan Rotchadl (FS), and cornerbacks Steve Prunty and Reed Hess.

The kicking game is the job of Tom Nelson who punted for a 40.4-yard average (43 boots), and also converted 22 of 27 PATs and five of seven field goal attempts.

MARIETTA (3-6)

Coach Joe McDaniel was not very pleased with the results from last season, but is expecting marked improvement with 16 starters (eight from each unit) returning.

Mark Boy, the leading rusher in the Ohio Conference two years ago, was injured a good portion of '77, but is reported healthy and ready to go and is pointing towards another 1,000-yard season. Tom Havranek is the quarterback, and some of the other offensive contributors are tight end Sam Reynolds, tackles Joe Wycinski and Jon Hall, and receivers Tim Sell and Dan Dogelbach.

Marietta runs out of the slot-I and pro formation, and most of its success will hinge on the performance of Boy.

The defensive standout is the secondary man Charlie Black, who led the division in kickoff returns, including 99- and 103-yard runbacks for touchdowns. Gary Lovett and Chris McDaniel offer help back there.

Linebackers Steve James and Mike Ulzio are also back, along with down linemen Ron Durst, Grant DeGarmo and Danny Williamson.

With the majority of players back with valuable experience under their belts, coach McDaniel should, at worst, expect to break even over the course of the season.

MARS HILL (7-3)

On the strength of a 5-2 league record, Mars Hill College finished with its highest South Atlantic Conference (SAC) rating. Six starters have graduated from that team, four from the offense and only two from the defense which was ranked second in the conference statistically.

Mike Wooten will be the new quarterback and his development will be vital to the success of this year's club. The running combo of Roger Cruell (98 yards per game) and James Miller are back.

The charge of the offensive line will be led by All-America candidate Allen Rice. The tight end slot is well-stocked with Steve Maennle, Frank Jenkins and Jeff Barton. The starting receivers figure to be Richard Carter and Mike Garren, but Larry Parton and Wayne Harrison will be pushing them.

Defensive end Richard Bagwell and tackle John Gulledge anchor the front line and the secondary features four solid and experienced players: Danny Miller and Admiral Webster at the corners, Steve Campbell at free safety and J.C. Burkett at strong safety.

Besides meeting the seven other SAC-8 opponents, Mars Hill will play Georgetown, Guilford, Liberty Baptist, and James Madison.

MIDDLEBURY (7-1)

After rolling with comparative ease to a solid 7-1 record and sixth place in the Lambert Bowl, the Panthers face a major rebuilding job this year. Gone from the record-setting '77 club are 11 starters including All-East selections Roy Heffernan, Terry Quinn, Duane Ford and Bruce Johnson.

Coach Mickey Heinecken must rebuild the entire running game, coming up with two halfbacks and a fullback, but refuses to be pessimistic. "We still have the nucleus of an excellent team," he maintains.

Key returnees on offense are quarterback Matt Winslow, who completed 60 percent of his passes for 919 yards and 17 touchdowns last year; Jay Moore, who snared 24 passes for six touchdowns; and Frank Kettle, an All-East center.

The defensive nucleus is supplied by veteran linebacker Skip D'Aliso, tackles Eric Kemp and Dave Barton, and deep back Larry Petzing. The strength of the unit lies with a veteran secondary which includes five seasoned performers. Three sophomores who are expected to help the unit considerably are 6-3, 230-pound tackle John Underwood, linebacker Paul Kelleher and deep back Jim Ancey.

Brian Miller, who converted 34 of 41 PATs, is back to toe the placements although a punter must be found.

MILLERSVILLE (8-2)

Millersville captured the Pennsylvania Conference Eastern Division title last year—for the first time in the college's history—but will be hard-pressed to repeat as champions.

Coach Gene Carpenter (Coach of the Year in the Eastern Division) will have to find a quarterback to replace Millersville MVP and divisional passing and total offense leader Carmen Lex, who has graduated. Carpenter must find a quarterback who passes well in order to take advantage of first-team All-Conference wide receivers Aaron Wyley (35 for 702 yards) and Don Humphrey (34 for 506).

Mike Kopenhaver appears to have first crack at the QB job but has not really thrown authoritatively in the past and the position could be up for grabs.

The fullback spot will be filled by Rick Griffe who'll be paired with either Terry Jones or Ronnie "Cash" Register. Tackles Jim Hanselman and Harry Leslie, along with guard Don Smith, anchor the offensive line.

With only three starters gone from the '77 squad, the Marauders should be strong defensively. Leading the defenders is linebacker Chuck Bachert and middle guard Mike Marcks, a pair of All-Conference first teamers last year. They also finished 1-2 on the tackle chart totals in '77. Bill Geiger and Phil Edwards will flank Marcks at the ends while Andy Mussleman will play one tackle.

All-America cornerback Bob Parr has departed, leaving either Alvin Robinson or Pat Ross to take his place. Robert "Hatchetman" Riddick will play the other corner.

Placekicking duties go to Terry Lehman and George Rule will do the punting.

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE (6-4)

Encouraged by a "reawakening" that hit the team the latter part of the 1977 season, coach John Williams and his Mississippi College Choctaws are looking forward to this year's kickoff.

The Choctaws finished 2-8 two years ago and rallied to win four of their last five in '77 to finish 6-4, so it looks as though Mississippi College grid fortunes are on the rise.

Williams has some big gaps to fill because of the graduation losses, however—mainly in the kicking game and on defense—but he believes he has the replacements and that his Chocs might be a contender for the Gulf South Conference title.

The Tribe led the GSC in defensive stats last year but loses three linemen and two secondary personnel from that unit. Returning, however, will be J.B. Brown, a second-team All-GSC player and All-Academic performer in both football and baseball.

Missing from the offensive unit will be one first-team All-GSC selection and two second-teamers, but Williams still has his entire backfield and a fair amount of veterans in the line. The Chocs spent a lot of time during the spring working on a passing attack—something that was woefully lacking last year. Quarterback Steve Mills and Dwight Hughes, halfback Ezra Tate, and fullback Bruce Hulitt will be expected to provide the offensive fireworks.

Carl Menist, Steve Metz, Chuck Crosby, Steve Johnson and Eugene Smith will hold forth along the offensive front with Elbert Lyles, Jim Jarrard, Ralph Ashley, Robert Hudson, James Trimble and Kent Adams performing for the defense.

MISSOURI-ROLLA (7-3-1)

In 1977, the University of Missouri-Rolla was picked to finish fifth in the seven-team Missouri Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA). The Miners fooled everyone except themselves and tied for the championship with a 4-1-1 conference record.

So they won't be sneaking up on anyone this season. The Miners lost only one offensive starter to graduation, quarterback Kenny Vaughn. Vaughn passed for a season record 1,888 yards and 12 TDs last year and whomever fills in for him will have the benefit of a deep and talented receiving corps. The Miners are led by Associated Press second team All-America tight end Andy Cox who caught 37 receptions and wide receiver David Hall, who had 36 and a 21.6 average.

The infantry is led by Terry Ryan, the nation's returning Division II leading rusher, who netted 1,314 yards last season. Ryan's heroics earned him second-team All-America recognition. Fullback Ron Bretz proved himself a brutal blocker last year and aids Ryan's thrusts.

Defensively, the Miners lost four starters. But injuries during the season forced a lot of play by underclassmen who now must be considered veterans. The defensive line is anchored by Joe Kinsella and Greg Elzie, the strongest and quickest of the linemen, respectively.

Two-time MIAA linebacker Kevin Wolf teams with Dan Vance for the league's top linebacking duo.

The defensive secondary was the biggest questionmark last year with two freshmen starting there. Safety Bill Grantham responded by leading the league in thefts with eight and cornerback Craig Heath chipped in with six.

If there is a weakness on the '78 Miner team it is in the kicking game. Missouri-Rolla kickers converted only six of 22 field goal attempts and averaged just 35.1 yards per punt.

MORGAN STATE (4-6-1)

The Golden Bears of Morgan State opened spring practice with 60 returning lettermen, but coach Earl Banks still has to find some key replacements for graduated personnel.

Quarterback Allen Rose, guard Raymond Merritt, and cornerback Kevin Slade will be sorely missed. The QB slot is wide open and Donald Beasley, Billy Burgess and Martin Hunt are the three top contenders. If they don't work out, Banks might have to ask the versatile Steve Turpin, who's a pass receiver, to try his hand at throwing.

The rest of the backfield is back, with halfback Lloyd McCleave, fullback Michael Mayer and flanker Nathan Munford footing the bill.

A pair of cornerbacks are needed and Garfield McKoy and Eric Drummond are being counted upon. Linebackers, Andre Wickham, Maurice Brooks, and Gerald Huggins return, and Earl Thomas should nail down the fourth spot.

Arthur Cook, Henry Robinson and Mike Lyons provide the experience up front, and Monte Hand is expected to take over for the departed Leonard Stephenson.

Emanuel Massey and Wayne LeCompte, defensive performers, return from academic probation and should be a big plus for the Golden Bears, who should improve over last year's showing.

MOUNT UNION (4-5)

Head coach Ken Wable will be relying heavily on a seasoned mix of incoming freshmen and tested veterans as he seeks to raise the Mount Union football team to the plus side of the ledger this year.

Offensively, the Purple Raiders will be led by backfield workhorse Tom Froelich and flanker-back sensation Paul Gilling. Froelich, the fullback, was Mount's leading rusher in '77 with a 4.97-yards per carry average. The glue-fingered Gilling, meanwhile, led the Raiders in both scoring and receiving last year. He scored seven touchdowns and averaged 15.1 yards per reception.

On defense, the Raiders look to middle guard Ken Wilcox with Jeff Noice and Mike Colant being counted on to ease the loss of top thief Bill Sumser from the secondary.

MUSKINGUM (7-2)

Muskingum loses seven seniors, including five starters, from the 1977 team that fooled the experts and turned a "rebuilding" season into one of unexpected excellence.

Of those five starters, three were offensive linemen and two defensive tackles.

Thus, the Fighting Muskies will field a veteran club with experience at the "skill" positions. Mark Dickerhoof, who completed 49 of 90 passes for five touchdowns before suffering a shoulder injury in the team's fifth game, returns.

Also back are tailback John McCarty, who gained 888 yards rushing, and fullback Matt Huffman, a 708-yard provider. McCarty was ranked nationally in scoring for most of the year with 11 touchdowns.

Split end Terry Kelley is well on his way to becoming the greatest pass-catcher in the 82-year history of Muskingum and will be entering his fourth year as a starter after catching 35 passes for 727 yards and seven TDs last season.

Defensively, the Muskies showed their youth last year, giving up 20.2 points per game. However, with only tackles Ray Peyton and Dan Wesson having graduated, the unit should be strengthened by nine returning starters.

While head coach Al Christopher won't come out and say it, most watchers of Ohio Conference football feel that Muskingum will be one of the teams to deal with in the race for the title.

NORFOLK ST. (4-6-1)

With 38 returnees available, coach William "Dick" Price appears to have the foundation to rebuild his 1978 edition of the Norfolk State College football squad.

Norfolk State's 1977 team was the first losing eleven for Price, who took over in 1974 and guided the Spartans to three consecutive Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) championships.

An all-out recruiting effort that enticed 22 signees is expected to augment the returning veterans.

Price's cup is half full as far as starters go, 11 having departed and 11 returning. Among those who will be hard to replace are running back Randy Robinson, quarterback Henry Sheppard and defensive end Elisha "Cadillac" Harris.

Gloomy as the prospects look, there is a ray of light on the horizon. "We like to think we did a pretty good recruiting job," says Price.

Among the veterans on hand is running back LaRue Harrington, an All-CIAA All-America selection who takes a two-year production log of 2,149 rushing yards and 22 touchdowns into the '78 campaign.

Another top notch performer is strong safety Mike Ellis, an All-CIAA junior who stole 12 enemy aerials last year to share the national top spot in the final Division II interception statistics.

On commenting on his first losing season, Price declared "We'll be back."

"Everybody, coaches and players, learned a great deal from the experience of a 'down' year. It will be the incentive for us to concentrate on strengthening our weaknesses and working hard to prevent it from happening again."

NO. CARO. A&T (7-4)

The return of 10 defensive starters plus the nucleus of the most potent offense in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference last year makes North Carolina A&T the early choice to cop the league title.

Defense will be the key to the Aggie overall attack.

The line is bolstered by the return of 6-5, 245-pound Dwaine "Pee Wee" Board, the MEAC's defensive MVP last year. Warren Bethea, the younger brother of Houston Oiler great Elvin Bethea, is another standout. Mamoth (6-7, 255) Ulysses Thompson and Lucien Nibbs (6-7, 262) make the Aggie line most formidable.

The pass defense, a strong point last year, should be a plus again this season with the return of Thomas Warren, Gerald Johnson and Tony Currie, who intercepted 19 passes between them.

Although the nucleus of the offense returns, coach Jim McKinley must find a replacement for three-time All-MEAC QB Ellsworth Turner. Leading candidates are Fred Freeman, Andre Olden and William Watson.

The running backs will be headed by freshman sensation Charlie Sutton, a 9.6 sprinter despite his 225 pounds.

The A&T receiving corps, led by Bruce Black, Lon Harris, Allen Thomas and Frank Carr, is one of the best in the league.

Wheeler Brown, William Harvey, Willie Washington and Emmanuel Davis are the big boys up front.

NO. ALABAMA (5-5)

Coach Wayne Grubb's 1978 edition of the North Alabama Lions will be built around a productive and deep ground corps that will feature the thrusts of junior running back Curtis Sirmones. Sirmones galloped for 759 yards last year with a 5.7 average. He scored 10 touchdowns.

Joining Sirmones will be Terry Stooksberry and Otis Green, a pair of pretty good runners in their own right. Stooksberry had 389 yards and a spectacular 8.6-yards per carry average while Green added 274 yards and a 4.6 norm.

Johnny Grubb, who showed flashes of excellence while learning the system last year, appears ready to step into the signal-caller's role. Grubb hit 48.6 percent of his passes last year.

He'll have a new set of receivers, however, losing last year's starting crew to graduation.

Larry Peck and Tommy Edwards return to bulwark the offensive line.

Howard Ross, Albert Walker, Brad Hendrix, Bill Bowens, Manuel Walker, David Brewer and Marcene Emmett are the men to watch on defense.

North Alabama gave up an average of 19.5 yards per game while scoring at a 23.0 clip.

NORTHWESTERN ST. (6-5)

Coach A. L. Williams' Demons should have plenty of scoring punch this season as most of last year's producers return to the skilled positions.

Quarterbacks Kenny Philibert and Mark Rhodes combined for 1,547 aerial yards and 10 touchdowns last year, and both are back.

Mike Almond, who caught 25 balls for 405 yards, and Wyamond Waters, just a step behind with 23 receptions for 345, return as primary pass receivers.

The ground corps, meanwhile, will rely on tailback Mark Schroeder and fullback Brett Knecht. Schroeder led the team in yardage in '77 while Knecht had the best average, 4.5. Pat Collins (eight for 143) is the tight end.

Petey Perot, a hulking 6-3½, 285-pounder, is the big name (and big body) on the offensive line.

Willie Washington, Robert Brown and Van Kyzar maintain the defensive line with U.L. Finister the most experienced linebacker.

Donnie Pistorius is a veteran in the secondary.

Placekicking and punting will be handled by Dennis Pendergraft who kicked 18 of 21 PATs six of 12 FGs, and averaged 41.0 yards per punt last year.

OCCIDENTAL (5-4)

Coach Bill McQueary is confident that his club will improve over last year's performance, and considering he has 38 of a possible 50 lettermen returning, his expectations might very well be realized.

Occidental should have a tenacious defense, with nine of the 11 starters back. The two top players on that side of the ledger are seniors William Jefferson, an excellent ball-hawking secondary ace, and Ron Higuera, a linebacker who roams the field well and is a sure tackler.

McQueary likes the passing game and with Kirk Duncan doing the tossing, this is a team that can score points in a hurry.

A couple of superb pass protectors are around, as tackles Bill Dobson and Dean Bergstrom rarely falter.

If the Tigers should catch a break or two along the way, they might make a serious challenge for the top spot in the Southern California ICA.

OHIO WESLEYAN

Coach Jack Fouts will have to re-evaluate both lines if the Bishops are to seriously challenge for the Ohio Conference title this year. Lack of depth hurt OWU there last year. "We are most vulnerable here if we have an injury," admits Fouts.

On offense, the Bishops will rally round co-captain running back Joe Sylvester, tailback Rob Robinson and quarterback Randy Eldridge.

Howie McGinnis, Nick Turk and Todd Korman head the receivers with Tom Snyder, Kendall Morrison and Chris Jones expected to anchor the offensive front.

Defensively, the outlook is similar — a promising backfield and lack of depth on the line.

The Bishops were second in the Ohio Conference in pass defense, but next-to-last in rushing defense. Gary Lofgren, John Lewis and Mike McMullen form a fine linebacking crew while Kevin Klemencic, last year's Most Valuable Player, bulwarks the line.

OTTERBEIN (8-1)

Although Otterbein comes off its best season since 1961, things don't look as promising because eight starters have been lost through graduation. Coach Rich Seils still has some strong players back, but there might be a few too many holes to fill.

Quarterback Bill Hillier is gone, and with him, his freelance, rollout style of passing With John Toeller assuming control, the aerial attack will be more drop-back oriented and it might not be as effective.

The defense will also be hard-pressed to match its fine '77 record, as linebacker Don Snider, the mainstay of that unit, will no longer be around for Seils.

With a host of unanswered questions besetting Seils and company, Otterbein will drop a few notches and anything better than a .500 mark will have to do.

PRESBYTERIAN (7-3-1)

Presbyterian College "caught 'em by surprise" last year and posted a 7-3-1 mark, good enough for second place in the South Atlantic Conference and impressive enough to earn Cally Gault conference "Coach of the Year" honors.

But the Hosemen will be hard-pressed to repeat last year's showing with such stars missing as Elliot "Black Magic" Pauling, and safety David "White Lightning" Elliot. Gone, too, are both regular quarterbacks from last year.

In spite of heavy personnel losses, the battling Blue Hose are far from giving up on 1978. All-Everything Roy Walker bulwarks the offensive line while split end Jessie Cason and flanker Jay Byars provide the aerial excitement.

Clayto Burke is the lone returning letterman in the backfield, an area of obvious concern to Cally.

Defensively, PC will have its best "front seven" in years. Headed by All-SAC end Jim McCoun, only the middle guard position must be filled.

The defensive backfield, spearheaded by Rhea Faris and Chuck Jordan, also is deep.

Larry Bridges, who won two games with his toe last year, returns to handle the placements. However, a punter must be found.

REDLANDS (6-3)

You must accept the good with the bad, and that's exactly what coach Frank Serrao has to do. He's overjoyed that he has nine defensive starters back from last year's Southern California IAC championship team, but must mull over the fact that he has only two offensive starters returning.

The only defensive losses were Paul Jessup and Bruce White. Leading the replacements are Brad Steward and Richard Rebenstrof.

Co-captain Skip Buck paces a group of reliable performers, with Steve James (end), Greg Harper (middle guard), Randy Bialock (seven interceptions at safety) and Ron Sibley (tackle) lending fine support.

Jim Conley, a part-time player in '77, is the other co-captain and his passing arm will be expected to account for most of the offensive yardage until the running attack hits full stride. Returning starters are center Keeley Thomas and fullback Don Fleming (252 yards).

Dan Buoye and Mike Aloia are top candidates for the guard spots. Dave Simmons is slated for duty at tight end, Wally Nishoka should land the tailback job, and Tom Bazacas is the probable flanker. The other assignments are pretty much up in the air.

Kicker Reed Myer is a definite plus. He rarely misses anything up to 35 yards.

Serrao feels the biggest needs are for offensive tackles, which would lay the foundation for solid pass protection and a potent running attack. In addition, offensive depth must be resolved.

SAINT MARY'S (4-5)

The return of quarterback Terry Cottle and most of his offensive weapons plus a strong kicking game are the ingredients the Gaels will rely on this season in their quest to nudge above the .500 plateau.

Cottle, who passed for 964 yards and five touchdowns last season, will have a dual threat in running back Rich Orlando. Orlando led the Gaels in rushing last year with 679 yards and was second in receiving with 20. Also returning to the backfield is Joe Pastor, the second leading rusher on the team last year.

Kicker Kevin Shea, who booted 10 field goals and 14 PATs, is another fine offensive weapon.

A major concern for Gael brass will be the offensive and defensive lines because they will be manned largely by first-year people and transfers. Linebacking also is unsettled.

SAN FRANCISCO ST. (5-5)

Vigorous off-season recruiting produced an influx of 22 freshmen onto the 1977 football squad—nine of which became starters. Now, with a year of experience behind them, the 1978 edition of the San Francisco State Gators are looking forward to a great season.

Defense and the kicking game loom as S.F. State's strong suits.

A strong defensive line headed by All-America honorable mention Dean Triggas is supported by a tough linebacking unit patrolled by sophomores Chuck Werk and Joe Garrity. In the secondary, All-America honorable mention Frank Duncan returns after a standout season in 1977.

A sophomore kicker named Alan Dewart is a threat to a re-write all Gator records in that category. Last season he booted five field goals outside the 40-yard line and was successful on all 16 of his extra point attempts.

However, the veer oriented offense will make more than its share of contributions. Signal-caller Tom DeRego returns after pacing the S.F. State squad in total yards in 1978 and will be hampered only by the fact he will be working with a new crop of wide receivers and running backs.

Gradually, the San Francisco State football program has improved in the past few seasons, and that improvement will have to continue.

SETON HALL (3-5)

The Pirates will have to put more points on the board than last year's output of 81 if they hope to improve on 1977's 3-5 mark.

Bob Kilcarr, who tossed five TD aerials last year, directs the Pirate offense. Kilcarr's favorite receiver, Barry Dunleavy, has graduated, however, making fullback Dan Smith the leading returning receiver with seven catches.

The running game also is paced by Smith, who averaged 3.5 yards per carry last year, and Bob Catino, who led the team in yardage and kickoff returns. Greg Davis, Tom Portenstein, Al Sachs and Don Yacus are regulars returning up front.

Defensively, Seton Hall counts on defensive tackle Steve. Bulger, end Tom Tivenan, and linebackers Joe Cancelliere and J.P. Mahon.

SLIPPERY ROCK (4-4-1)

Rebuilding almost the entire offensive interior line, shoring up a sometimes-porous defense, and re-establishing a once-awesome ground game to compliment quarterback Mike Sachire and All-America end Bob Schrantz are the major problems facing Bob DiSpirito as he begins his 12th season at the Rock.

Half of the starters from the Mean Green Machine that won four of its last five to achieve .500 are gone so DiSpirito has plenty of holes to fill.

Sachire, who led the Pennsylvania Conference Western Division in both passing (1,090 yards) and total offense (1,476 yards) will pair with Schrantz and flanker Eugene Fuqua in an impressive aerial attack.

Starting running backs Doug Young and John Martin are also back but they combined for just 711 yards last year. And tackle Bob Herrington is the only returning veteran on the line.

All-Conference tackles Bob Takacs and Herb Allen, along with middle guard Joe Pais are back to key the defensive front but graduation claimed both starting ends and linebackers.

Cornerback Jack DiGuilio and strong safety Sam Kiefer return to plug holes in the secondary.

DiSpirito, who has guided the Rock to a 47-19-3 record over the past seven years including three Pennsylvania Conference championships and a pair of NCAA Division III bowl appearances, has his rebuilding chores cut out for him.

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE (9-1-1)

With more than two-thirds of the starters back from 1977, the Bulldogs appear to be headed for an unprecedented fifth straight Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference crown and their sixth consecutive post-season berth.

Returning from last year's winning Gold Bowl team are nine offensive starters and six from the defense.

Quarterback Nate Rivers and tailback Charlie Burgess can be expected to lead the Bulldog attack. Rivers is an exceptional runner while Jesse Prather, Allan Warkins, and Prince Phillip are more accurate throwers, Jackie Reed, Willie Fedler, and Anthony James should complement Burgess in the backfield.

Tackle Charles Simpkins is the only other offensive departee, and the returning starters include linemen Hugh Workman and Albert Lester, and tight end Mickey Pringle.

Defensively, linebacker Samuel Dunham has been moved to end while Ervin Parker has taken the opposite route. James McCoy and Steve Latimer are both returning starters and they complete the linebacking triumverite.

Bobby Moore, all-conference in '77, Walt Sullivan and Phil Murphy are up front and they give the Bulldogs plenty of quickness.

Dexter Clinkscale, Rufus Bess, and Bruce Jackson hold down the secondary, and sub Alvin Sumter may crack the starting lineup before the year's out.

Another exceptional year is expected from Willie Jeffries' troops and they should not disappoint.

TARLETON STATE (7-4)

Buddy Fornes believes the Texans of Tarleton State will show slight improvement over their '77 performance. The defense is expected to be strong once again and the skill positions on offense are better than average.

Leading the defensive charge will be fourth-year man, middle linebacker Tally Neal. The 6-1, 200-pound San Antonian native is a vicious tackler.

With Dane Crips, Richard Carruth, Krayles Banks, and Charles Carleton in the secondary, the opposition should find it difficult moving the ball through the airwaves.

Defensive ends are at a minimum, but Steve Fieszel, Barry Cox, Paul Lovejoy, Tony Rich, and Jeff Longbotham may fill that need.

Bobby Rodriguez, Tony Tuck, and Wayne Schumacher are the other linebackers besides Neal.

Lack of experience at quarterback is a problem, but Billy Ortiz and Shelby Wright (both sophomores) and transfer Tim Lewelling should get the job completed. Mark Owens, George Ferguson, Ronnie Roemisch, Joe Gossett, and Gary Evans compose the receiving corps.

The rushing group includes Mark Elam, Chuck High, Ricky Eddings, Dave Kannenberg, and Jim Smith.

Gene Ross, an offensive guard, is one of the most intense players anywhere and some of his aggressiveness has worn off on tackle Lonnie McMillan. Mike Whaley, Randy Crook, and Bill Easter are the other candidates for some up front blocking.

Grant Gale is a versatile sort, as the senior can placekick, punt, and fill in at wide receiver.

TENNESSEE TECH (9-2)

Thirteen returning starters and a new NCAA classification have the Golden Eagles in an optimistic mood for '78.

Offensively, Tech rewrote the record book by breaking or tying 18 team marks last season. Alternate quarterbacks Milton Jenkins and Jimmy Maynord, receiver Craig Rolle, and running back Cecil Fore head the offensive returnees.

Jenkins and Maynard combined to throw for 1,573 yards and 15 touchdowns last season.

Rolle was named to the All-Ohio Valley Conference first team after catching 42 passes for 734 yards and five TDs.

Fore, also a member of the all-conference team, was Tech's top rusher with 741 yards on 138 carries.

Up front, Jack Cunningham, Fred Rockymore and Ken Drew return to starting roles.

Coach Don Wade's defense is headed up by all-conference cornerback Greg Bauer and six other returnees. Bauer led Tech in unassisted tackles and interceptions in 1977.

Bob Britton and John Dethridge are the returnees at linebacker with Roddna RockymoreandBarry Courtney anchoring the line.

Besides Bauer, the defensive backfield features Danny White, Drew Harshaw and Greg Hamilton.

Tech's kicking game is very strong with all-conference placement specialist Wayne Anderson and punter Steve Davis (second-team All-OVC) returning.

Tech moves into the NCAA's new Division I-AA this year.

TENN-MARTIN (8-3)

Vester Newcomb, recently promoted to head coach at the University of Tennessee at Martin after George MacIntyre resigned, has his work cut out for him if he's to match the 8-3 marks the Pacers have registered in each of the past two seasons.

"We graduated our pass offense and pass defense from last year," moaned Newcomb.

Replacing quarterback Alvin Smalls, the '77 Gulf South Conference Player-of-the-Year, is a formidable task in itself. And, in addition, Ronald George, a GSC record holder, and three of his receiving mates also have graduated.

Donny Sherman is the heir apparent at quarterback.

Fullback Henry "Sweetcakes" Williams and tailback Michael Gipson, both starters, return to the backfield to ease Sherman's entrance.

The offensive line should be a plus with guard Lanny Williams and center Jon Gentry bulwarking the forward wall.

Defensively, the Pacers must replace three defensive backs and a linebacker. Mark Carroll will break in three new mates in the backfield, probably Mickey Marley, Greg Hundley and Curtis Williams.

The linebacking corps is headed by Dennis Brown and Kevin Lamb with Jack Chaney, Larry Newcomb and Jim Hardegree the big names and big bodies up front.

TEXAS LUTHERAN (4-6)

After compiling a 10-1 mark in 1976, Dan Knight's club fell to the very mediocre mark of 4-6. With 30 lettermen returning, including 13 starters, Knight expects his squad to turn it around in its first year of Division I NAIA competition.

The defense has nine starters back and it figures to carry the team. The front five will probably be Basil Kallies, Ron Glenwinkle, Tommy Cook, Bucky Lampe and Fernando Ramirez. The back six should include Chuck Henkes, Tim Funk and Ricky Matt among others.

The offense lists only four returning starters and the inexperience will pose a problem that has to be overcome.

Russ Rinn figures to be the signal caller and Marc McCarthy is the best of the offensive front. Bill Jackson and Wayne Zimmerhanzel share the flanker spot, while B.J. McKinney and Dave Brown will divide time at tight end.

Leonard Arnic, Steve Brooks and David Reese are sound ball-carriers, but they'll be behind a wall that has not played together very long.

If the defense hangs tough while the offense improves, Lutheran can have a respectable record. But unfortunately for Knight, a couple of years ago might have given him his brightest days.

TRINITY (Conn.) (3-5)

The Bantams finally fell from the ranks of the victorious last season, suffering their first losing record since 1969. It tarnished Don Miller's 11-year coaching mark, leaving him with a 55-30-3 slate.

Quarterback Mike Foye keys the offense, but must improve his interception-touchdown ratio (14:6). Pat McNamara (27 receptions, 4 TDs) was the best receiver in '77 and he's back.

Paul Votze amassed 360 yards on the ground last season and should top that total. Jim Rickert and John Olear will also make a considerable contribution carrying the ball. The offensive line remains a sore spot and Miller must beef up the arsenal up front.

Defensively, the Bantams permitted 222 points in '77, not an impressive figure. But captain John Flynn and Joe Delano, the top two tacklers, are back, along with Floyd Monroe, Jeff Mather, Tom McGowan and Bob Almquist.

Bob Plumb's punting average of 38.6 placed him 12th nationally in Division III, and his presence will be appreciated. Bill McCandless handles the placekicking.

Miller maintained his winning habit for a long time, but now that he has slipped somewhat, it may take some time for his club to make a comeback.

TUFTS (3-5)

Head coach Paul Pawlak begins his fifth season at Tufts with 19 starters and 29 lettermen returning from last year's 3-5 effort.

The defense is potentially awesome thanks to the presence of All-East tackle Mark Buben and co-captain middle guard Terry Richards. Buben is murder on quarterbacks, nailing them for 15 sacks last years.

Jim Ford, a two-year starter at linebacker, returns, as does safety Russ O'Brien, the team's leading intercepter (three) in 1977. But, Pawlak is stressing an improved secondary and several major changes could occur.

Offensively, the Jumbos will be looking to quarterback Chris Connors for guidance. Connors passed for 918 yards and five touchdowns to lead the offensive assault last fall. A strong pass-receiving corps made up of Don Leach (28 for 342 yards), John Casey (23 for 342) and Tracey Maclin (nine for 200) makes Tufts a dangerous passing outfit.

Tailback Mike Band ran for eight TDs in as many games last year and will be returning along with fullback Tom Levesque, but the Jumbos could still use more speed.

Up front, Tufts lost two-time All-East tackle Mike Kelly, but should present solid protection led by two-year starters Bob Lederman at guard and Curtis Johnson at tackle.

UC DAVIS (11-1)

Better than the team that won 11 straight games and went to the Division II finals in 1977? That's proposing a mouthful, but this year's University of California Davis football squad figures to be very formidable to say the least.

Forty-five of 64 lettermen will return as the Aggies of head coach Jim Sochor shoot for their eighth straight Far Western Conference title and a followup trip to the playoffs.

Defense is where the Mustangs figure to be at their best. Casey Merrill, Mark Markel and Mike Dempsey represent a solid nucleus up front and starting deep backs Mike Johnson and Jeff Allen also return. Holdover Steve Clerici leads a talented crop of linebackers. The Davis defense permitted only 159 points in 12 games last year, including a 2.5-yard rushing average and 43 percent pass completions.

Offensively, Sochor must rebuild an interior wall to capitalize on the skills of his veteran yardage personnel headed by quarterback Mike Moroski, the conference's reigning "Player of the Year." Moroski threw for 2,215 yards last year including 19 touchdowns.

Also prominent in the Aggie scheme are speedsters Calvin Ellison at wide receiver and Ron Austin at running back. Ellison had 38 catches, 707 yards and nine TDs to lead the team in all three categories. Austin ran for 396 yards — second best on the team — and a 4.3-yard average.

Both figure to compliment trusty fullback Fred Wheeler, who tallied 11 touchdowns as a junior.

VIRGINIA ST. (7-3-1)

The loss of All-CIAA defensive tackle Chris Moore and his equally-decorated mate, Julius Simms, on the offensive line, has second-year coach Tom Morris concerned about the Trojans' ability to duplicate last year's surprising success.

Despite deficiencies along both fronts, the Trojans have some sizable pluses, foremost among them the return of fullback George Leonard, a 1,003-yard producer last season.

Morris also has both of last year's top signal-callers returning, Maurice Banks and Tony Colden. Banks opened up as the starter but Colden was very impressive towards the end of the season.

Another top-notch performer is tight end Joe McDaniels, who will combine with center Charles Miles to help bulwark the offensive line.

The defense will be woven about the talents of linebacker Marshall Jones and defensive back Linwood Hardy, the latter fourth in the CIAA in interceptions last year.

In all, 23 lettermen and 12 starters are back.

VIRGINIA UNION (10-1)

Coach Willard Bailey guided his team to an excellent 10-1 mark in 1977, and with approximately 75 percent of that squad returning, it should be another successful season for the finely-tuned Big Red Machine.

Point production was plentiful last year (33 points per game) and more of the same is on the horizon. Co-captain Garfield Mizelle is back to man the quarterbacking chores and he is surrounded by great talent. The running tandem is big and fast, with fullback Nathan Fairly (6'3", 235 pounds) and Judge Thomas (9.5 speed) carrying the ball. And if that's not enough, there's wingback Malcolm Barnwell, a multi-purpose performer who totaled more than 1,200 yards in reception and rushing.

Coach Bailey employs a pro-style defense and it brings fruitful results. The majority of that stingy unit is back except for a pair of linebackers, but Phil Cunningham and Eugene Taylor have already shown a wealth of ability and are slated to step right in.

Barring any unforeseen setbacks, the Big Red Machine appears headed for an excellent year and with a bit of luck, they might just have a perfect season.

WESLEYAN (6-2)

The return of 17 starters (nine on offense and eight on defense) provides Wesleyan with an excellent opportunity to improve on last year's fine 6-2 mark.

Only two starters, a tight end and guard, are missing from the offense. Wesleyan's running attack, which average 199 yards in 1977, should be just as potent in 78. The unit is headed by quarterback John Papa with fullback Bob Latessa and halfbacks Dennis Robinson and Spike Cooney leading the infantry. Robinson, named to the All-New England second team, led Wesleyan in rushing with 517 yards and a 5.2-yard average. He also paced the squad in kickoff and punt returns. Papa also moonlights, having been selected on the All-New England squad as a punter and kicker.

On defense, Wesleyan will have to replace two-time All-America end John McVicar, tackle Don Dandelske and linebacker Matt Hoey, but the secondary will return intact. Also, the return of end John Bozzi, tackle Sandy Herzlich and linebacker Tim Fitzgerald should help Wesleyan match last year's average of 2.1 yards per carry it surrendered.

Coach Bill Macdermott's two losses in '77 were to Little Three rivals Amherst and Williams, both of which should offer stiff challenges again this season.

WHITTIER (8-2)

If John Godfrey can uncover four players to start in the defensive secondary, Whittier College again will be a contender for the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title, won for the last five season by Redlands.

Godfrey can stock the other positions with seasoned personnel, but all four defensive regulars from the 1977 unit which intercepted 23 passes have graduated.

The Poets averaged 23.5 points a game last year, winning 8 of 10 overall and 4 of 5 conference games. They lost the SCIAC title on the final night, 20-14, to Redlands, despite getting off to a 14-0 lead.

But Godfrey figures his offensive unit will be even more productive because his young line has matured. It includes Jeff Smith, Dan Rodriguez, Pete Matthews, Mike Chavez and Pat Ewing, from tackle to tackle.

Junior quarter back Chris Terrazas, who led the conference with 14 touchdown passes last year, returns with his two top receivers—Don Hodson and Ray Chavez, blessed with exceptional speed. All three made All-SCIAC.

Godfrey expects senior power runner, Rick Alkire, also a strong blocker, to fill the shoes of all-district Bob Warren, who led the Poets in scoring. Joe Kahler, an exciting breakaway runner, returns as does 210-pound Mike Flippin, so the rushing game should be effective.

Top defensive players are middle guard Ted McCaslino, the best pass rusher in the district, tackle Jeff Jackson and end Tony Primrose.

WILLIAMS (5-3)

With a sixth Little Three crown in the past seven years and 16 starters back in camp, coach Bob Odell can be expected to add to his impressive 43-12-1 mark at Williams College this year.

Key returnee for Odell and the Ephman is Greg McAleenan, a first-team All-New England defensive back who was fourth in the nation (Division III) in pass interceptions. The versatile co-captain also led the team in punting, punt returns and kickoff returns.

Joining McAleenan will be linebacker John Thiel, another All-New England selection and a host of other veterans.

Offensively, the Ephman will be looking for a quarterback to replace graduated Bill Whelan. The leading prospect for the job is sophomore Bob Lutz. Lutz, if he wins the job, will have plenty of experienced players around him. Fullback Gus Nozzolese led the team in rushing and he returns, as does flanker Ken "Hollywood" Hollingsworth, an All-ECAC pick. Another top notch threat is halfback Dave Massucco.

WOOSTER (6-3)

Wooster coach Tom Hollman has several talented players returning to his 1978 team including three All-OAC selections: center Blake Moore, defensive linemen Eric Showes and Daryl Ward. Moore also was a first-team College Division Academic All-America in 1977. Linebacker Rob McCoy was honorable mention all-conference last year.

Other defensive returnees include tackle Marty Cvelbar, linebacker Joe Neroni and backs Perry Hoskins, Doug Greenleaf and Rick Kolencik.

Offensively, Wooster's top two quarterbacks were freshmen last year so both Tim Raffel and George Muller figure to benefit from the year's experience. Leading rusher Ron Lingenfelter returns at tailback with Jim Powers and Rich Leone at fullback. Lingenfelter rushed for 500 yards and a 4.5-yard average while Powers had stats of 373//3.7 and Leone checked in with 419/4.2. In addition, Mike Riffee, who led the team in rushing as a freshman in 1976, is coming back after missing all of last year with a knee injury.

Split end Tim Jackson and tight ends Vince Cellini and Chris Romano, along with wingback Brad Bischoff, are main reserves. Rick Sulzer joins Moore on the line.

1978 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE SCHEDULE

(All times local)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
(First Weekend)

1. N.Y. Giants at Tampa Bay 8:00

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

2. Green Bay at Detroit 1:00
3. Houston at Atlanta 1:00
4. Kansas City at Cincinnati 1:00
5. Los Angeles at Philadelphia 1:00
6. Miami at N.Y. Jets 1:00
7. Minnesota at New Orleans 1:00
8. Oakland at Denver (NBC) 2:00
9. Pittsburgh at Buffalo 1:00
10. St. Louis at Chicago 1:00
11. San Diego at Seattle 1:00
12. San Francisco at Cleveland 1:00
13. Washington at New England 1:00

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

14. Baltimore at Dallas (ABC) 8:00

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
(Second Weekend)

15. Detroit at Tampa Bay 8:00

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

16. Atlanta at Los Angeles 1:00
17. Chicago at San Francisco 1:00
18. Cincinnati at Cleveland 1:00
19. Dallas at N.Y. Giants 1:00
20. Houston at Kansas City 1:00
21. Miami at Baltimore (NBC) 4:00
22. New England at St. Louis 1:00
23. New Orleans vs. Gr. Bay at Milw. 1:00
24. N.Y. Jets at Buffalo 4:00
25. Oakland at San Diego 1:00
26. Philadelphia at Washington 1:00
27. Seattle at Pittsburghi1:00

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

28. Denver at Minnesota (ABC) 8:00

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

29. Buffalo at Miami 4:00
30. Chicago at Detroit 1:00
31. Cleveland at Atlanta 1:00
32. Dallas at Los Angeles (CBS) 1:00
33. Kansas City at N.Y. Giants 1:00
34. Oakland at Green Bay 1:00
35. Philadelphia at New Orleans 1:00
36. Pittsburgh at Cincinnati 1:00
37. San Diego at Denver 2:00
38. San Francisco at Houston 1:00
39. Seattle at N.Y. Jets 1:00
40. Tampa Bay at Minnesota 1:00
41. Washington at St. Louis 1:00

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

42. Baltimore at New England (ABC) 9:00

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
(Fourth Weekend)

43. Atlanta at Tampa Bay 4:00
44. Baltimore at Buffalo 1:00
45. Cleveland at Pittsburgh 1:00
46. Denver at Kansas City 1:00
47. Detroit at Seattle 1:00
48. Green Bay at San Diego 1:00
49. Los Angeles at Houston 1:00
50. Miami at Philadelphia 1:00
51. New England at Oakland (ABC) 6:00
52. New Orleans at Cincinnati 1:00
53. N.Y. Jets at Washington 1:00
54. St Louis at Dallas (CBS) 3:00
55. San Francisco at N.Y. Giants 4:00

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

56. Minnesota at Chicago (ABC) 8:00

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1
(Fifth Weekend)

57. Cincinnati at San Francisco 1:00
58. Detroit vs. Gr. Bay at Milw. 1:00
59. Houston at Cleveland 1:00
60. Kansas City at Buffalo 1:00
61. Los Angeles at New Orleans 1:00
62. Minnesota at Tampa Bay 1:00
63. N.Y. Giants at Atlanta 1:00
64. Oakland at Chicago (NBC) 3:00
65. Philadelphia at Baltimore 2:00
66. Pittsburgh at N.Y. Jets 1:00
67. St. Louis at Miami 1:00
68. San Diego at New England 1:00
69. Seattle at Denver 2:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

70. Dallas at Washington (ABC) 9:00

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8
(Sixth Weekend)

71. Atlanta at Pittsburgh 1:00
72. Baltimore at St. Louis 1:00
73. Buffalo at N.Y. Jets 1:00
74. Chicago at Green Bay 1:00
75. Cleveland at New Orleans 1:00
76. Denver at San Diego 1:00
77. Houston at Oakland 1:00
78. Minnesota at Seattle 1:00
79. N.Y. Giants at Dallas 1:00
80. Philadelphia at New England 1:00
81. San Fran. at Los Angeles (CBS) 1:00
82. Tampa Bay at Kansas City 1:00
83. Washington at Detroit 1:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9

84. Cincinnati at Miami (ABC) 8:30

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15
(Seventh Weekend)

85. Buffalo at Houston 1:00
86. Dallas at St. Louis 1:00
87. Detroit at Atlanta 1:00
88. Kansas City at Oakland 1:00
89. Los Angeles at Minn. (CBS) 3:00
90. Miami at San Diego 1:00
91. New England at Cincinnati 1:00
92. New Orleans at San Francisco 1:00
93. N.Y. Jets at Baltimore 2:00
94. Pittsburgh at Cleveland 1:00
95. Seattle vs. Gr. Bay at Milw. 1:00
96. Tampa Bay at N.Y. Giants 1;00
97. Washington at Philadelphia 1:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16

98. Chicago at Denver (ABC) 7:00

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22
(Eighth Weekend)

99. Atlanta at San Francisco 1:00
100. Chicago at Tampa Bay 1:00
101. Cincinnati at Buffalo 1:00
102. Cleveland at Kansas City 1:00
103. Denver at Baltimore (NBC) 4:00
104. Green Bay at Minnesota 1:00
105. Miami at New England 1:00
106. New Orleans at Los Angeles 1:00
107. Oakland at Seattle 1:00
108. Philadelphia at Dallas 1:00
109. St. Louis at N.Y. Jets 1:00
110. San Diego at Detroit 1:00
111. Washington at N.Y. Giants 1:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23

112. Houston at Pittsburgh (ABC) 9:00

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26
(Ninth Weekend)

113. Minnesota at Dallas (ABC) 7:30

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

114. Baltimore at Miami (NBC) 4:00
115. Buffalo at Cleveland 1:00
116. Denver at Seattle 1:00
117. Detroit at Chicago 1:00
118. Houston at Cincinnati 1:00
119. Kansas City at Pittsburgh 1:00
120. N.Y. Giants at New Orleans 1:00
121. N.Y. Jets at New England 1:00
122. St. Louis at Philadelphia 1:00
123. San Diego at Oakland 1:00
124. San Fran. at Washington 1:00
125. Tampa Bay at Green Bay 1:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30

126. Los Angeles at Atlanta (ABC) 9:00

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5
(Tenth Weekend)

127. Cincinnati at San Diego 1:00
128. Cleveland at Houston 1:00
129. Dallas at Miami (CBS) 4:00
130. Detroit at Minnesota 1:00
131. Green Bay at Philadelphia 1:00
132. New England at Buffalo 1:00
133. New Orleans at Pittsburgh 1:00
134. N.Y. Giants at St. Louis 12:00
135. N.Y. Jets at Denver 2:00
136. Oakland at Kansas City 1:00
137. San Francisco at Atlanta 1:00
138. Seattle at Chicago 1:00
139. Tampa Bay at Los Angeles 1:00

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6

140. Washington at Baltimore (ABC) 9:00

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12
(Eleventh Weekend)

141. Atlanta at New Orleans 1:00
142. Baltimore at Seattle 1:00
143. Chicago at Minnesota (CBS) 3:00
144. Dallas vs. Gr. Bay at Milw. 1:00
145. Denver at Cleveland 1:00
146. Houston at New England 1:00
147. Kansas City at San Diego 1:00
148. Miami at Buffalo 1:00
149. N.Y. Giants at Washington 1:00
150. N.Y. Jets at Philadelphia 1:00
151. Pittsburgh at Los Angeles (ABC) 5:00
152. St. Louis at San Francisco 1:00
153. Tampa Bay at Detroit 1:00

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

154. Oakland at Cincinnati (ABC) 9:00

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19
(Twelfth Weekend)

155. Atlanta at Chicago 1:00
156. Buffalo at Tampa Bay 1:00
157. Cincinnati at Pittsburgh 4:00
158. Cleveland at Baltimore 2:00
159. Detroit at Oakland 1:00
160. Green Bay at Denver 2:00
161. Los Angeles at San Francisco (CBS) 1:00
162. New England at New York Jets 1:00
163. New Orleans at Dallas 1:00
164. Philadelphia at New York Giants 1:00
165. St. Louis at Washington 1:00
166. San Diego at Minnesota 1:00
167. Seattle at Kansas City 1:00

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

168. Miami at Houston (ABC) 8:00

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23
(Thirteenth Weekend)
(Thanksgiving Day)

169. Denver at Detroit (NBC) 12:30
170. Washington at Dallas (CBS) 2:30

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

171. Cincinnati at Houston 1:00
172. Los Angeles at Cleveland 1:00
173. Minnesota at Green Bay 1:00
174. New England at Baltimore (NBC) 4:00
175. New York Giants at Buffalo 1:00
176. New York Jets at Miami 1:00
177. New Orleans at Atlanta 1:00
178. Philadelphia at St. Louis 1:00
179. San Diego at Kansas City 1:00
180. Seattle at Oakland 1:00
181. Tampa Bay at Chicago 1:00

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27

182. Pittsburgh at San Francisco (ABC) 6:00

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3
(Fourteenth Weekend)

183. Atlanta at Cincinnati 1:00
184. Baltimore at New York Jets 1:00
185. Buffalo at Kansas City 1:00
186. Cleveland at Seattle 1:00
187. Denver at Oakland (ABC) 6:00
188. Detroit at St. Louis 1:00
189. Green Bay at Tampa Bay 1:00
190. Los Angeles at New York Giants 1:00
191. Miami at Washington 1:00
192. New England at Dallas (NBC) 3:00
193. Philadelphia at Minnesota 1:00
194. Pittsburgh at Houston 1:00
195. San Francisco at New Orleans 1:00

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

196. Chicago at San Diego (ABC) 6:00

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9
(Fifteenth Weekend)

197. Baltimore at Pittsburgh (NBC) 1:00
198. Minnesota at Detroit (CBS) 4:00

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

199. Buffalo at New England 1:00
200. Dallas at Philadelphia 1:00
201. Green Bay at Chicago 1:00
202. Houston at New Orleans 1:00
203. Kansas City at Denver 2:00
204. New York Jets at Cleveland 1:00
205. Oakland at Miami (NBC) 4:00
206. St. Louis at New York Giants 1:00
207. Seattle at San Diego 1:00
208. Tampa Bay at San Francisco 1:00
209. Washington at Atlanta 1:00

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

210. Cincinnati at Los Angeles (ABC) 1:00

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16
(Sixteenth Weekend)

211. Chicago at Washington	(CBS) 1:00
212. Pittsburgh at Denver	(NBC) 2:00

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

213. Atlanta at St. Louis	1:00
214. Buffalo at Baltimore	2:00
215. Cleveland at Cincinnati	1:00
216. Dallas at New York Jets	1:00
217. Green Bay at Los Angeles	1:00
218. Kansas City at Seattle	1:00
219. Minnesota at Oakland	(CBS) 1:00
220. New Orleans at Tampa Bay	1:00
221. New York Giants at Philadephia	1:00
222. San Diego at Houston	3:00
223. San Francisco at Detroit	1:00

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

224. New England at Miami	(ABC) 9:00

1978 NATIONALLY TELEVISED GAMES
Regular Season

Mon., Sept. 4	Balt. at Dallas	(night, ABC)
Mon., Sept. 11	Den. at Minn.	(night, ABC)
Mon., Sept. 18	Balt. at N. E.	(night, ABC)
Mon., Sept. 24	N. E. at Oakland	(night, ABC)
Mon., Sept. 25	Minn. at Chicago	(night, ABC)
Mon., Oct. 2	Dallas at Wash.	(night, ABC)
Mon., Oct. 9	Cinn. at Miami	(night, ABC)
Mon., Oct. 16	Chicago at Den.	(night, ABC)
Mon., Oct. 23	Houston at Pitts.	(night, ABC)
Thurs., Oct. 26	Minn. at Dallas	(night, ABC)
Mon., Oct. 30	L.A. at Atlanta	(night, ABC)
Mon., Nov. 6	Wash. at Balt.	(night, ABC)
Sun., Nov. 12	Pitts. at L.A.	(night, ABC)
Mon., Nov. 13	Oak. at Cinn.	(night, ABC)
Mon., Nov. 20	Miami at Houston	(night, ABC)
Thurs., Nov. 23	(Thnksgvng) Den. at Det.	(night, NBC)
	Wash. at Dallas	(day, CBS)
Mon., Nov. 27	Pitts. at S. F.	(night, ABC)
Sun., Dec. 3	Denver at Oakland	(night, ABC)
Mon., Dec. 4	Chicago at San D.	(night, ABC)
Sat., Dec. 9	Balt. at Pitts.	(day, NBC)
	Minn. at Detroit	(day, CBS)
Mon., Dec. 11	Cinn. at L.A.	(night, ABC)
Sat., Dec. 16	Chicago at Wash.	(day, CBS)
	Pitts. at Denver	(day, NBC)
Mon., Dec. 18	New England at Miami	(night, ABC)

Postseason

Sun., Dec. 24	NFL Fst Rnd Playoffs (CBS and NBC)
Sat., Dec. 30	AFC &NFC Divisn'l Playoffs (NBC &CBS)
Sun., Dec. 31	AFC &NFC Divisn'l Playoffs (NBC &CBS)
Sun., Jan. 7	AFC Championship Game (NBC)
	NFC Championship Game (CBS)
Sun., Jan. 21 (NBC)	Super Bowl XIII in Orng Bwl., Miami, Fla.
Mon., Jan. 29	AFC-NFC Pro Bowl at L.A. (night, ABC)

Monday Night Games at a Glance
(All times local; televised by ABC)

Sept. 4	Baltimore at Dallas	8:00
Sept. 11	Denver at Minnesota	8:00
Sept. 18	Baltimore at New England	9:00
Sept. 25	Minnesota at Chicago	8:00
Oct. 2	Dallas at Washington	9:00
Oct. 9	Cincinnati at Miami	8:30
Oct. 16	Chicago at Denver	7:00
Oct. 23	Houston at Pittsburgh	9:00
Oct. 30	Los Angeles at Atlanta	9:00
Nov. 6	Washington at Baltimore	9:00
Nov. 13	Oakland at Cincinnati	9:00
Nov. 20	Miami at Houston	8:00
Nov. 27	Pittsburgh at San Francisco	6:00
Dec. 4	Chicago at San Diego	6:00
Dec. 11	Cincinnati at Los Angeles	6:00
Dec. 18	New England at Miami	9:00

Sunday-Thursday Night Games at a Glance
(All times local; televised by ABC)

Sun., Sept. 24	New England at Oakland	6:00
Thurs., Oct. 26	Minnesota at Dallas	7:30
Sun., Nov. 12	Pittsburgh at Los Angeles	5:00
Sun., Dec. 3	Denver at Oakland	6:00

TV Doubleheader Games
(Following Sunday games are scheduled to be seen in many areas as part of television doubleheaders)

Sept. 3	Oakland at Denver	(NBC)
Sept. 10	Miami at Baltimore	(NBC)
Sept. 17	Dallas at Los Angeles	(CBS)
Sept. 24	St. Louis at Dallas	(CBS)
Oct. 1	Oakland at Chicago	(NBC)
Oct. 8	San Francisco at Los Angeles	(CBS)
Oct. 15	Los Angeles at Minnesota	(CBS)
Oct. 22	Denver at Baltimore	(NBC)
Oct. 29	Baltimore at Miami	(NBC)
Nov. 5	Dallas at Miami	(CBS)
Nov. 12	Chicago at Minnesota	(CBS)
Nov. 19	Los Angeles at San Francisco	(CBS)
Nov. 26	New England at Baltimore	(NBC)
Dec. 3	New England at Dallas	(NBC)
Dec. 10	Oakland at Miami	(NBC)
Dec. 17	Minnesota at Oakland	(CBS)

1978 AFC-NFC INTERCONFERENCE GAMES
(Sunday unless noted; all times local)

Sept. 3	Houston at Atlanta	1:00
	San Francisco at Cleveland	1:00
	Washington at New England	1:00
Sept. 4	(Mon.) Baltimore at Dallas	8:00
Sept. 10	New England at St. Louis	1:00
Sept. 11	(Mon.) Denver at Minnesota	8:00
Sept. 17	Cleveland at Atlanta	1:00
	Kansas City at NY Giants	1:00
	Oakland at Green Bay	1:00
	San Francisco at Houston	1:00
Sept. 24	Detroit at Seattle	1:00
	Green Bay at San Diego	1:00
	Los Angeles at Houston	1:00
	Miami at Philadelphia	1:00
	New Orleans at Cincinnati	1:00
	N.Y. Jets at Washington	1:00
Oct. 1	Cincinnati at San Francisco	1:00
	Oakland at Chicago	3:00
	Philadelphia at Baltimore	1:00
	St. Louis at Miami	1:00
Oct. 8	Atlanta at Pittsburgh	1:00
	Baltimore at St. Louis	1:00
	Cleveland at Seattle	1:00
	Minnesota at Seattle	1:00
	Philadelphia at New England	1:00
	Tampa Bay at Kansas City	1:00
Oct. 15	Seattle at Green Bay	1:00
Oct. 16	(Mon.) Chicago at Denver	7:00
Oct. 22	St. Louis at N.Y. Jets	1:00
	San Diego at Detroit	1:00
Nov. 5	Dallas at Miami	4:00
	New Orleans at Pittsburgh	1:00
	Seattle at Chicago	1:00
Nov. 6	(Mon.) Wash. at Baltimore	9:00
Nov. 12	N.Y. Jets at Philadelphia	1:00
	Pittsburgh at Los Angeles	6:00
Nov. 19	Buffalo at Tampa Bay	1:00
	Detroit at Oakland	1:00
	Green Bay at Denver	2:00
	San Diego at Minnesota	1:00
Nov. 23	(Thurs.) Denver at Detroit	12:30
Nov. 26	Los Angeles at Cleveland	1:00
	N.Y. Giants at Buffalo	1:00
Nov. 27	(Mon.) Pitts. at San Fran.	6:00
Dec. 3	Atlanta at Cincinnati	1:00
	Miami at Washington	1:00
	New England at Dallas	3:00
Dec. 4	(Mon.) Chicago at San Diego	6:00
Dec. 10	Houston at New Orleans	1:00
Dec. 11	(Mon.) Cinn. at Los Angeles	6:00
Dec. 17	Dallas at N.Y. Jets	1:00
	Minnesota at Oakland	1:00

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That's Right...

If you would have bet using the unstoppable TOUCHDOWN II system, you would have made $3,000 profit. With each system ordered, we'll show you how it was done using our WORKOUT OF RESULTS along with final totals. Three out of three winning years is the best win percentage of any system, and 1977 will be better yet.!

TOUCHDOWN II was developed after thousands of hours of methodical and painstaking research which uncovered certain percentage patterns that repeated themselves the entire season. These patterns actually had the linemaker working for the TOUCHDOWN II bettor.

TOUCHDOWN II has knocked the betting spread dead for the last three years, and here's just a sample of one hot weekend (October 3) where TOUCHDOWN II really cleaned up.

TOUCHDOWN II SAID:

Take BUFFALO over KANSAS CITY to easily cover the 8-point spread and take SEATTLE over DALLAS to come within the high-priced 17-point line. These two selections would have given many bettors a good day, but TOUCHDOWN II also told you to take GREEN BAY with 6 points against DETROIT, MINNESOTA with 4½ points against PITTSBURGH and the NY GIANTS with 7 points against ST. LOUIS. Not only did TOUCHDOWN II give bettors 5 big winners, but GREEN BAY and MINNESOTA won their games outright.! Yes . . . that's right . . . 5 big winners . . . and all in one football weekend.

Put together a string of these weekends and you come up with a $3,000 profit! Along with each order for TOUCHDOWN II we will include last season's workout so that you can see for yourself WHERE YOU COULD HAVE WON $3,000! The operation of the TOUCHDOWN II system can be mastered in minutes. If you understand football, you'll understand TOUCHDOWN II. Selections made in minutes . . . no longer will you have to pour over statistics, reams of research material and the selection sheets you normally subscribe to.

The secret to TOUCHDOWN II's amazing winner-picking method is that it by-passes the ordinary handicapping factors, such as power ratings, offensive, defensive strengths—scoring, averages, etc. Instead it uses betting factors normally considered of little consequence. These factors, however, are used by many professional football bettors when betting in Las Vegas. It surpasses Touchdown I's money-winning average, because, while Touchdown I wins almost 4 out of 5 games—Touchdown I averages only 2 selections per weekend. TOUCHDOWN II, however, produces between 5 and 8 plays per weekend.

If you haven't seen TOUCHDOWN I then you can get that original TOUCHDOWN system when you subscribe to TOUCHDOWN II. The Complete Price for TOUCHDOWN II is $25, along with a free workout of the 1976 results. SPECIAL OFFER—If you have not purchased TOUCHDOWN I, (regular price $25) you can have both TOUCHDOWN I & II for $35!!

Send your check, money order or cash along with your name and address to SPORTS ACTION, 343 Great Neck Road. Great Neck, N.Y. 11021.

Please indicate whether you want TOUCHDOWN II for $25 or TOUCHDOWN I & II for $35.

Don't Forget, a $25 Investment Could Be Worth Even More Than $3,000!!!

SPORTS ACTION — 343 GREAT NECK ROAD, GREAT NECK, NEW YORK 11021— (516) 487-8300

1978 NCAA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

*-Conference Game †-Night Game F-Favorite U-Underdog P-Pick 'em
Neutral or other sites indicated. All symbols refer to team on far left. Scores are 1977 meeting, if applicable.

	SEPT. 2	SEPT. 9	SEPT. 16	SEPT. 23	SEPT. 30	OCT. 7	OCT. 14	OCT. 21	OCT. 28	NOV. 4	NOV. 11	NOV. 18	NOV. 25	DEC. 2
AIR FORCE 2-8-1		at UTEP † F	at BC † 14-36 U	Holy Cross F	at Kan. St. F	Navy 7-10 U	Colo. St. U	Notre Dame 0-49 U	Kent St. F	at Army U	Ga. Tech U	at Vand't. U		
AKRON 6-4-1		at W. Ill's.† 42-7	at NE Mo.	Waynes St.† 24-14	E. Illinois†	at W. Ky. 24-3	at E. Mich. 28-42	at Y'gt'wnSt 10-28	No. Mich. † 0-12	Temple †	at E. Ky	at N. Ind. †		
ALABAMA 10-1-0			at Missouri F	at USC † (B'mh'm) 21-20 F	Vanderbilt 24-12 *F	at Wash. F	Florida *F	at Tenn. 24-10 *F	Va. Tech F	Miss. St. (B'mh'm) 37-7 *F	LSU (B'mh'm) 24-3 *F		Nebraska (B'mh'm) 24-31 F	Auburn (B'mh'm) 48 21 *F
ALBANY ST. U. 2-9-0		at Kings Point	So. Conn. 18-a	at B'kp't St. 40-14	Towson	at Buffalo	at Norwich 21-7	at Cortland State 18-15	Ithaca	at Pitts. St. 47-19	Springfield 10-7			
ALCORN ST. 3-8-0		Grambling (Shreveport) 17-42	at Ala. St. 15-7	C'nt'l Mich (Jackson) 7-39	at So. Caro. State 7-31	Tex. S'thrn 14-37		Southern U. (Jackson) 23-0	Bishop 16-21	at Miss. Valley St. 10-12	at Prairie View 31-12		Jackson St. (Nov. 23) 16-23	
ALFRED 4-5-0			Brockport St. 6-7	Canisius † 34-14	at Ithaca 8-17	at St. Law. 0-14	Hobart 14-17	Cortland 15-9	Plattsbrugh State	at Rochester 8-24	at Buffalo			
AMER. INT'L. 5-4-1			at So. Conn. 13-11	Norwich 15-33	at Kings Point	at Amherst 14-14		New Hamp.	Springfield 6-35	at C'n.Conn. 28-40	at Hofstra 28-7			
AMHERST 5-2-1				at Sp'gf'ld 6-9	Bowdoin 33-0	Amer. Int'l. 14-14	at Bates 45-7	at Wesleyan 16-14	Tufts 42-20	at Trinity 49-14	Williams 13-21			
APPALACHIAN STATE 2-9-0		Wofford	at Marshall 28-20	Richmond 13-21	Furman 20-28	at Tenn.-Chat. † 7-14	at Lenoir Rhyne † 35-21	Citadel 20-28	E Tenn. St. 20-38	at E. Caro. 14-45	at VMI	W. Caro. 14-44		
ARIZONA 5-7-0		Kansas St. † F	Oregon St. † *F	at Tx. Tech† 26-32 U	Iowa† 41-7 P	at Mich. U	California † *U		at UCLA† (Oct. 27) *U	at Wash. *U	at Oregon *F	Wash. St.† *U	Arizona St.† *U	
ARIZONA ST. 9-2-0		Pacific Cal. † F	BYU † 24-13 F	Wash. St. (Spokane) *F	UTEP † 66-3 F	at N'thw'trn 35-3 F	USC † *F		at Wash. *P	California † *F	Stanford † *F	at Ore. St. 33-31 *F	at Arizona † F	
ARKANSAS 10-1-0			Vanderbilt † (Little Rock) F	at Okla. 28-6 F	Tulsa 37-3 F	TCU † (Little Rock) 42-6 *F		at Texas 9-13 *U	at Houston† 34-0 *F	Rice 30-7 *F	at Baylor 35-9 *F	Tex. A&M † (Litte Rock) 26-20 *F	at SMU 47-7 *F	Texas Tech 17-14 *F
ARKANSAS ST. 7-4-0	at Tulsa †	So. Miss. † (Little Rock) 14-10	at NE La. † 31-20	Drake † 31-29		NW La. † 7-30	at So. Ill's. 21 6	McNeese St. 14-17	at Tx-Arl. † 14-44	at SW La † 17-15	at La. Tech 7-20	Lamar 10-6		
ARMY 7-4-0			Lafayette 42-6 F	Virginia F	Wash. St P	at Tenn. F	Holy Cross 48-7 F	at Florida F	Colgate F	Air Force 31-6 F	BC 28-49 F	at Pitts. 26-52 U		Navy 17-14 U
AUBURN 5-6-0			at Kan. St. F	at Va. Tech F	Tennessee (B'mh'm) *U	Miami, Fla. U	at Vand't. *F	Ga. Tech 21-38 F	Wake Forest F	at Florida 29-14 *U	at Miss. St. 13-27 * U	Georgia 33-14 * F		Alabama (B mh'm) 21-48 * U
AUSTIN COLL. 1-8-0		at T'lt'n St. 13-21	Trinity Tex. 16-21	at McMurry 10-21		Sul Ross 36-14	Tarleton St.	at Trin Text	McMurry	Millsaps 7-21	at Sul Ross			
AUSTIN PEAY 8-3-0		at Tenn.-Martin† 10-23	St. Norbet †	at Kentucky 21-3	E. Ky. 20-17	Morehead St 21-7	N. Ala. † at 13-6	at L'v'g'tn †	at Mid.Tenn 6-15	Murray St. 13-0	Tenn. Tech 24 21	at E. Tenn. State† 24-10		

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BALDWIN WALLACE 8-1-0			at Ashland † 20-10	Capital †	at Musk'um 35-21	Denison † 34-7	Mt. Union 33-12	at Ohio Wesleyan 35-17	at Ohio Northern	Heidleberg				
BALL STATE 9-2-0		Miami, O.	Kent St. 12-13	Toledo 43-3	at Central Mich.	Indiana St. 42-18	at La. Tech†	at Ill's. St. 27-16	at E. Mich. 45-21	at BGU	W. Mich. 29-25	at N. Ill's. 31-6		
BAYLOR 5-6-0			at Georgia F	at Kentucky 21-6 U	at Ohio St. U	Houston 24-28 * U	SMU 9-6 * F	at Tex. A&M 31-38 * U	at TCU 48-9 * F	at Tex. Tech 7-17 * U	Arkansas 9-35 * U	at Rice 24-14 * F	Texas 7-29 * U	
BLOOMSBURG STATE 4-5-0		Ithaca	at Shippensburg 6-3	Lock Haven 14-21	M'sfield St. 24-0	at Wilkes 31-6	at W. Ch'ter 7-20	Millersville 21-28	at Cheyney State 27 7	Kutztown 7-14	at East Stroudsburg			
BOISE STATE 9-2-0		Fullerton †	L. B. State	N. Mich. †	at Montana 26-0 43	Montana † 43-17	SanJoseSt. †	Weber St. † 19-9	at IdahoSt.† 31-7	Idaho 44-14	at N. Ariz.† 27-13	at Cal Poly (SLO) † 42-21		
BOSTON COLLEGE 6-5-0			Air Force † 36-14 F	Texas A&M† U	Navy † U	Pittsburgh 7-45 U	at Tulane † 30-28 F		at Temple F	at Villanova F	at Army U	Syracuse U	Mass. F	Holy Cross F
BOSTON U. 3-7-0			Maine 23-20	at New Hampshire 14-26	Northw'trn 37-15	at Dartm'th 0-38	Mass. 16-41	at L'sville †	at R. I. 22-31	Holy Cross 14-13	at Conn. 21-23	Bucknell		
BOWIE STATE 3-7-0		St. Paul's 8-6	at Frostburg State 20-12	Liberty Bapt 0-47	at Shaw, N.C. 12-19	Hampton Inst. 7-27	Elizabeth City			at Fayetteville St. † 15-13	District of Columbia		at Norfolk State (Nov 28)	
BOWLING GREEN 5-7-0		at Villanova	at E. Mich.† 6-16	Grand Val. State 17-6	at W. Mich. 34-14	at Toledo † 21-13	Kent St. 14-10	at Miami,O. 13-33	Cen. Mich. 28-35	Ball St.	at So Miss.†	Ohio 39-27		
BYU 9-2-0		at Ore. St. † 19-24 F	at Ariz. St. † 13-24 U	Colo. St. † 63-17 * F	at NMU 54-19 * F	Utah St. 65-6 F	at Oregon F	UTEP 68-19 * F	10-7 * F	Wyoming * F	S.D. State 38-8 * F	at Utah F	at Hawaii† F	Nev.-L.V. (Tokyo) F
BROCKPORT STATE 4-5-0		Rochester	at Alfred 7-6	at Buffalo 17-7	Albany St. 14-40	at Plattsburg State 7-0	Cortland St. 0-28	Iona	at Mansfield State 7-11	Hobart 14-55				
BROWN 7-2-0				Yale 9-10 * F	Rhode Is. 28-10 F	at Princeton 10-7 * P	Pennsylvania 7-14 * F	at Cornell 21-3 * F	Holy Cross 44-13 F	at Harvard 20-15 * F	Dartmouth 13-10 * F	at Columbia 21-14 * F		
BUCKNELL 4-5-0			at VMI	Rutgers 14-36	at Davidson 44-12	at Cornell	Lafayette 7-34	at Gettysb'g 34-0	at Lehigh 13-47	Northw'trn	Colgate 17-49	at Boston U		
CALIFORNIA 7-4-0		at Nebraska U	at Ga. Tech F	Pacific,Cal. F	at W. Va. F	Oregon * F	at Arizona † *F	UCLA 19-21 * U	at USC 17-14 * U	at Ariz. St.† *U	Wash. St 10-17 * F	Stanford 3-21 * F		
CALIFORNIA STATE 2-8-0		Carnegie-Mellon 12-8	Waynesburg 13-27	at Frostburg State	at Westminster, Pa.	Slippery Rock 7-35	at Indiana, Pa 7-47	EdinboroSt 8-30	at Clarron State 10-45	Lock Haven 12 41	at Shippensburg 14-42			
CAL POLY POMONA 2-8-0			San Fran. † 18-21	S'ramento †	at Chico St.†	at N. Ariz † 0-16	at Santa Clara † 31-14	at Hayward State 28-22	Northridge State† 0-19	Cal Poly (SLO)† 14-24		Fullerton State † 0-48		
CANISIUS 5-2-2			at Rochester 7-24	at Alfred † 14-34	Rensselaer Poly 28-16	Buffalo 22-8	Bridgewater Mass.,	at Ithaca		at Catholic, D.C. 10-3	at Westminster, Pa.			
CAPITAL U. 5-4-0		at John Cr'l	Kenyon	at Baldwin-Wallace †		Muskingum 14-31	at Wittenb'g 3-34	Otterbein 15-24	Wooster 13-20	at Marietta 7-6				
CASE RESERVE U.T. 5-4-0		at Oberlin	Centre	at Wash. & Jefferson 26-7	at Carnagie-Mellon 6-25	John Carroll 7-0	at Allegheny 3-0	at Bethany W. Va. 12-16	Threl 23-17	Hiram 15-13				
CATHOLIC U.T. 5-4-0			at St. Vinc't 37-2	Georgetown, D.C. 27-22	at Gallaudet 22-0	Bridgewater, Va.	Duquesne 12-21	at St. Fran., Pa. † 13-10	Frostburg State	Canisius 3-10	at Trntn St. 7-27	Brooklyn		
CENTRAL COLLEGE 9-0-0		Northw'trn 26-7	Cornell, Ia.	at Upper Ia. 32-0	William Penn 28-13	at Wartburg 10-3	at Dubuque 34-14	Luther 21-0	at Buena Vista 35-28	Simpson 37 0				

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CENTRAL CONN. 7-3-0			New Hamp. 7-42	at Slippery Rock 39-7	Maine 20-45	at Cortland State 51-0	Montclair State 6-14	at Springf'ld 12-10	at Gl'ssb'ro State † 33-9	American Int'l. 40-28	at N'rthw'tn 21-12	at So. Conn 21-19		
CENTRAL MICHIGAN 10-1-0		Kent.St. 49-10	at Miami,O.	Alcorn St. (Jackson) 39-7	Ball St. 12-28	at Ohio 31-14	Illinois 28-7	N. Illinois 25-21	at B.G. 35-28	Toledo 44-0	at E. Mich. 9-3	at W. Mich.		
CENTRAL MO. STATE 3-7-0		Mo. S'thrn.† 19-30	at Cen.Ark.† 21-24	Emporia St† 25-20	at NE Okla† 13-21	NW Mo. 12-27	at SE Mo 28-40	at L'cln Mo† 23-20	NE Mo. 23-45	at SW Mo. 14-7		Mo.-Rolla 14-20		
CHEYNEY ST. 3-5-0			Geneva 16-6	at Stn Hall †	at William Patterson 16-6	Mansf'ld St. 16-7	at East Stroudsburg 0-24	at Kutzt'wn State 14-23	Bloomsburg State 7-27	Millersville 0-48	W. Chester 14-28			
CHICO STATE 6-2-1			Cal Luth.†	at N'thr'dge State	Cal Poly Pomona †	at San Fran. State 32-0	at Central Wash.	Puget Sound 14-13	Hayw'rd St† 7-7	at Sacram'to State † 36-7	at Humb'ldt† State 21-16	Cal-Davis† 22-54		
CINCINNATI 5-4-2			So. Miss. 17-6	Louisville † 17-17	at Richm'nd	at Fla. St. † 0-14	at Temple† 17-17	Tulsa † 28-0	at SW La. †	NE La. 63-0	Ohio 38-26	at Miami,O 7-12	at Mem.St	
CITADEL 5-6-0		Presb. † 13-7	at Clemson	VMI † 3-19	at Ga. Tech	Marshall	at W. Caro. 20-0	at Appal.St 28-20	Delaware 7-23	at W&M 13-14	Wofford 7-0	at Furman 10-3		
CLAREMONT-MUDD 1-7-0				St. Mary's Cal. 6-16	at Cal Lutheran 13-37	U. S. Int'l. 7-35	San Diego	at Redlands† 7-35	at Whittier† 0-35	Pomona–Pitzer 13-0	Occidental 7-21	LaVerne 15-26		
CLARION ST. 8-0-1		W. Liberty 20-12	Delaware St. 8-3	at Geneva 45-0	at Edinboro State 10-6	at Ithaca	Lock Haven 20-13	at Shippens-burg 26-6	California, Pa. 45-10	at Slippery Rock 14-14	Indiana, Pa. 15-12			
CLEMSON 8-2-1			Citadel F	at Georgia 7-6 F	Villanova F	Va. Tech 31-13 F	at Va. 31-0 * F	Duke 17-11 F	at N.C. St. 7-3 * F	at Wake For 26-0 * F	N. Caro. 13-13 * P	at Maryland 14-21 *F	So. Caro. 31-27 F	
COAST GUARD 5-4-0		at Kings Point	Rensselaer Poly 29-15	at WPI 27-7	at Norwich 18-30	Wesleyan 7-24	at Fordham	So. Conn. 14-19	Trinity, Conn. 45-14	Buffalo 41-14	at Seton Hall			
COLBY COLL. 1-7-0				Middlebury 14-56	at Wesleyan 7-21	at Union, N.Y. 25-13	Hamilton 14-28	at Trinity, Conn. 23-24	Bates 14-25	Tufts 13-17	at Bowdoin 14-15			
COLGATE 10-1-0			Holy Cross 31-14	at Lehigh	Cornell 28-22	at Harvard 38-21	at Villanova	at Princeton 31-13	at Army	Lafayette 38-12	at Bucknell 49 17	at Delaware 3-21	at Rutgers 23-0	
COLORADO 7-3-1		Oregon F	Miami,Fla. F	San Jose St. F	Northw'trn F	Kansas 17-17 * F	at Okla. St. 29-13 * F	Nebraska 15-33 * U	at Mo. 14-24 * F	Oklahoma 14-52 * U	at Kan. St. 23-0 * F	Iowa St. 12-7 * P		
COLORADO STATE 9-2-1			Utah St. 13-10	at BYU † 17-63 * U	at Utah † 44-3 * F	UTEP 40 31 * F	at Air Force U	Nev.-L.V. F	Wyoming 13-29 * F	at S.D. St.† * F	at New Mex 14-9 * F	W. Va. F	Pacific-Cal (Nov. 23) F	
COLUMBIA 2-7-0				at Harvard 7-21 * U	Lafayette 21-10 F	at Penn. 30 18 * F	Princeton 7-28 * U	at Yale 20-42 * U	Rutgers U	at Dartm'th 7-14 * U	Cornell 7-20 * U	Brown 14-21 * U		
CONNECTICUT 1-10-0			W&M	Navy 7-38	at Yale 12-23	at New Ham 7-42	at Rutgers 18-42	Maine 7-0	at Mass 0-10		Boston U. 23-21	R.I. 7-14	at Holy Crs 3-14	
CORNELL 1-8-0				Princeton 0-34 * U	at Colgate 22-28 U	Bucknell F	at Harvard 7-17 * U	Brown 3-2 * U	Dartmouth 13-17 * U	at Yale 0-28 * U	at Columbia 20-7 * F	Penn. * F		
CORTLAND ST. 2-8-0		Buffalo	Springfield 0-62	Ithaca 17-38	at East Stroudsburg 14-69	Central Conn. 0-51	at Brock-port	at Alfred 9-15	Albany St., N.Y. 15-18	at Platts-burgh	So. Conn. 0-37			
CURRY COLLEGE 5-4-0			Nichols 6-13	at W. Conn. 7-0	at Boston St 7-11	Mass. Maritime 7-10	at Farming-ham St. 14-10	Maine Maritime 13-0	at New Hav 21-19	Br'gw'ter, Mass 8-11	at Plymouth State 9-0			
C. W. POST 5-3 1			at East Stroudsburg	at N'the'trn 10-10	Wagner 43-0	at Kings Point 16-0	Hofstra 18 0	Westmin-ister, Pa.		at Lehigh 10-36	Edinboro State	West Chester		

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DARTMOUTH 6-3-0				Penn. 3-7 * F	at Holy Crss 17-14 F	Boston U. 38-0 F	Yale 3 0 * F	at Harvard 25-31 * F	at Cornell 17-13 * F	Columbia 14-7 * F	at Brown 10-13 * U	at Princeton 14-11 * U		
DAVIDSON 4-6-0		Fordham 20-17	at Wash.& Lee 42-14	Wofford (Sept. 21)	Bucknell 12-44	at Randolph-Macon 49-7	at Lehigh 7-43	at Hampden-Sydney 20-24	Guilford (Charlotte) 31-0	at Furman	Lafayette 18-20			
DAYTON 8-3-6	Liberty Bapt (Sept. 1) †	at Maine	Otterbero †	Butler † 45-13	Miami, O. † 23-26	at Ashland	E. Ky. 20-13	at Fordham	Central St., Ohio 27-14	at Berris St. 45-19	St. Norbert			
DELAWARE 6-3-1		Rhode Island	West Chester 17-15	W. Illinois	Temple 3-6	at Lehigh	N.C. A&T	at Middle Tennessee 60-7	at Citadel 23-7	Maine	Villanova 16-33	Colgate 21-3		
DELAWARE STATE 7-30		So. Caro. St. 0-21	at Clarion St 3-8	at Fla.A&M†	Md.-Eastern Shore 22-0	at Howard 18-0	N.C. Central 23-0	at Morgan St 20-6	at Ky. St. 10-3	Bethune-Cookman 10-6	at NC A&T 7-22	Livingstone		
DELAWARE VALLEY 2-7-0			Wilkes 8-32	at Moravian 14-13	Albright 8-35	at Lycoming 8-16	Upsala 20-31	Susquehana 7-28	at Juanita 6-23	at Widener 27-50	F.D.-M'ds'n 18-12			
DELTA STATE 4-6-0			SE Mo. † 21-24		No. Ala. † 21-28	at Miss. 24-13	at Troy St.† 7-10	Tenn.-Martin 7-46	at Jacks'nv'l State † 13-16	at SE La. † 7-10	Livingston† 7-3	Nicholls St † 14-0		
DAVISON 0-8-1			Wash. &Jeff.	at Muskgum 14-48	Marietta 7-10	at Baldwin-Wallace† 7-34	at Heidelberg 7-21	Ohio N'thrn	Mt. Union 3-21	Ohio Wesleyan 10 10				
DRAKE 2-9-0	Texas-Arlington	So. Illinois 13-9	Temple 0-42	at Ark .St.† 29-31	at Iowa St.	Wichita St. 17-47	at Ind. St. 20-23		at Tulsa 23-33	at New Mex. State 9-35	W. Tex St. 7-31	at LB St. † 10-27		
DUKE 5-6-0		Ga. Tech 25-24 F		So, Caro. 25-21 F	at Mich. 9-21 U	Virginia 31-7 * F	at Navy 28-16 U	at Clemson 11-17 *U	Maryland 13-31 * U	at Tenn. F	Wake For. 38-14 * F	at NC St. 32-37 * U	at No. Caro. * U	
EAST CAROLINA 8-3-0	W. Caro. †	at NC St. † 28-23	at No. Caro.	at SW La. † 7-9	Texas-Arlington †	at VMI 14-13	at So. Miss.†	Richmond (Norfolk) 35-14		Appal St.† 45-14	W&M 17-21	Marshall †		
EAST STROUDSBURG 6-2-0		Indiana, Pa.	C.W. Post	at Montclair State † 17-3	Cortland St. 69-14	Kutztown St 6-14	Cheyney St. 24-0	at M'nsf'ld State 51-6	at Millersv'll 8 34	at West Chester † 24-0	Bl'msb'rg St. 24-20			
EAST TENN. STATE 3-8-0		Miss. Col. †	W. Caro. † 0-35	at E. Ky. 34-38	W. Ky. † 13-33	Tenn. Tech† 20-63	Furman † 12-42	at Murray St. 10-13	at Appal. St 38-20	Morehead St 37-34	at Middle Tenn. 38-17	Austin-Peay † 10-24		
EASTERN TENN. U. 1-10-0	Central St., Ohio 24-25	at Butler 13-31	N. Indiana 21-31	NE Mo. 7-10	at Akron †	at Youngs-town State 22-52		at N. Mich.	at Wayne St. Mich. 14-24	Illinois St. 0-20	Murray St. 7-35	at W. Ill's. 14-28		
EASTERN MICH. U. 8-3-0	at N. Mich.	at Ohio 31-14	B.G. † 16-6	Ind. St. †	at Toledo † 17-7		Akron 42-28	at W. Mich.	Ball St. 21-45		Central Mich 3-9	at Ill's. St. 41-28		
EDINBORO ST. 3-6-1		at Farmont State 6-7	Muskingum	Millersville 12-24	Clarion St. 6-10	at Lock Haven 14-20	Shippens-burg 7-17	at Calif.,Pa. 30-8	Slippery Rck 25-13	at Ind. Pa. 3-3	at C.W. Post			
ELIZABETH CITY 3-6-0	Shaw, N.C. 17-7	at Elon †	Va. St. 12-31	at Norfolk 0-37	Hampton Institution 0-31	Va. Union 6-21	at Bowie St.	Winston-Salem 9-23	at Fayette-ville St. 7-0		St Paul's 21-19			
FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON 4-5-0				at Iona (Sept. 22)	St. Peter's 15-7	Upsala 0-46	at Kean † 6 16	Rensselaer Poly	Wilkes	at Ramapo 21-14	at Delaware 12-18	Ursinus		
FAYETTEVILLE STATE 3-7-0		at Albany 19-21	at Norfolk State 7-28	Shaw N.C.† 14-13		at St. Paul's 24-2	at Winston-Salem 18-40	Livingstone† 12-23	Elizabeth City 0-7	Bowie St. 13-15	at Johnson C. Smith 12-13			
FLORIDA 6-4-1			SMU † (Orlando) F		Miss. St. † 24-22 * F	LSU † 14-36 * U	at Alabama *U	Army F	at Ga. Tech F	Auburn 14-29 * F	Georgia (J'ksonville) 22-17 * F	at Ky. 7-14 * F	at Fla. † 9-37 U	Miami, Fla. 31-14 U
FLORIDA STATE 9-2-6		at Syracuse F	Okla. St.† 25-17 F	at Miami † 17-23 F	Houston † F	Cinn † 14-0 F	at Miss. St. F	at Pitts. U	at So. Miss. 35-6 F		Virginia † 23-21 F	Navy † F	Florida † F	

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FRAMINGHAM STATE 3-6-0			New Haven 0-3	at B'dgw'tr Mass. 0-3	Plymouth St 0-7	at Nichols 18-14	Curry 10-14	at Boston St 0-10	Mass. Maritime 14-6	W. Conn. 3-0	at Maine Maritime 7-24			
FRANKLIN & MARSHALL 8-1-0			at Muhlenberg 45-13	at Gettysb'g 21-0	at John Hopkins 37-14	Swarthm're 44-18	Dickinson 24-21	at Widener 12-42	at Albright 7-0	Moravian 32-21	Lebanon Valley 23-17			
FRESNO STATE 9-2-0		at McNeese State †	Weber St.†	at Utah St.	Cal Poly (SLO) † 52-3	at S. D. St.† 34-14	Pacific,Cal † 24-10	at San Jose State † 45-24	Fullerton State † 44-19	L. B. St. † 23-14	Montana St† 14-24	at Idaho †		
FULLERTON STATE 4-7-0		at Boise St.†	Santa Clara†	at Cal Poly (SLO) † 45-18	at Hawaii †	at Pacific Cal. † 7-49	Nev-Reno †	at L.B. St.† 31-50	at Fresno State † 19-44	at San Jose State † 12-23	at North-ridge St. † 45-14	at Cal Poly Pomona † 48-0	at Nev.-Las Vegas † 21-24	
FURMAN 4-5-2		at So. Caro.†	Carson-Newman†	at Vand't.	at Appal.St. 28-20	Wofford† 7-13	at E.Teon State † 42-12	Tenn.-Chatta. † 17-7	at Marshall 42-24	Davidson	at. W. Caro. 24-24	Citadel 3-10		
GEORGETOWN 2-7-0				at Catholic D.C. 22-27	at Duquesne	St. Peter's 17-28	Gallaudet 42 7	John Hopk.	at St. John's N.Y.	St. Francis Pa.	Wash&Lee 18-20			
GEORGIA TECH 6-5-0		at Duke 24-25 U	California U	Tulane 38-14 F	Citadel F	So. Caro. 0-17 U	Miami,Fla. 10-6 F	at Auburn 38-21 U	Florida U		at Air F'rce 30-3 F	Notre Dame 14-69 U		at Georgia F
GETTYSBURG 3-7-0		at Lafayette 3-22	at Lebanon	Franklin & 0-21	at Juniata 13-14	at Dickinson	at Moravian	Bucknell 0-34	Widener	West'rn Md. 21-20	Iona			
GRAMBLING 10-1-0		Alcorn St. (Shrevep'rt) 42-17			at Prairie View 70-7	Tenn. St. (Shrevep'rt) 8-26	at Miss. Valley St. 42-21	Jackson St. 34-7	at Tex. So.† 28-14	Langston (Okla City) 65-0	So. Caro.St.		Sothern U. (N.O) 55-20	
GRAND VAL LEY STATE 7-3-0		NE Illinois 34-12	at N. Mich.	at B.G. 6-17	at Franklin, Ind. 41-35	Ferris, St. 7-11	at Saginan Valley 41-14	Central St., Ohio	Northwood, Mich. 16-16	at Hillsdale 31-20	Wayne St., Mich. 6-3			
GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS 6-4-0		at A'st'na, S.D.† 17-49	Hamline 49-6	at St. Th'ms 31-0		at St. John's Minn. 18-28	at St. Olaf 20-15	Bethel,Minn	At Concordia, Minn. 7-9	Augsburg 34-28	Macalester 44-12			
HARVARD 4-5-0				Columbia 21-7 *F	Mass. 0-17 F	Colgate 21-38 F	Cornell 17-7 *F	Dartmouth 31-25 * U	at Princeton 7-20 * U	Brown 15-20 * U	at Penn. 54-15 * F	Yale 7-24 *F		
HAWAII 5-6-0		New Mex.† 26-35		at Nebraska	Fullerton State†	San Jose State† 14-24	at Nevada-Las Vegas†		Pacific Cal† 7-37	UTEP †	New Mex. State†	Wyoming†	BYU†	USC
HAYWARD ST. 6-3-1			N'rthr'dge St. 13-3	at Santa Clara† 36-29	St. Mary's, Cal. 31-10	at Cal-D'vs† 0-6	San Fran St St. 10-16	Cal Poly Pomona 22-28	at Chico St.† 7-7	at Nevada-Reno	Sac'mnto St 27-14	at H'mb'dt St.† 25-16		
HEIDELBERG 1-8-0			at Mariettat	Ohio No.† 15-21	at Otterbein †	Wittenb'rg† 6-31	Denison 21-7	at Mt.Union	Ohio Wesleyan 0-3	at Baldwin Wallace				
HOBART 7-20				at Wagner 35-14	at St. Law. 20-19	Rochester 15-29	at Alfred 17-14	Union,N.Y. 25-21	Ithaca 14-31	at Brockp'rt 55-14	Rensselaer Poly 36-6			
HOFSTRA 6-3-0			Seton Hall 28-6	at Pace	at Treton St. 40-7	at Wagner 27-7	at C.W. Post 0-18	Kings Point 17-14	N.Y. Tech 18-14	Fordham 0-33	American Int'l. 7-28			
HOLY CROSS 2-9-0		New Hamp. 14-27	at Colgate 14-31	at Air Force	Dartmouth 14-17		at Army 7-48		at Brown 13-44	at Boston U	Mass. 6-28	Rutgers	Conn. 14-3	at BC 35-20
HOPE COLLEGE 6-3-0		Marantha	at Wabash 20-18	DePauw 55-7	at Olivet, Ill.	Albron 28-39	at Olivet, Mich. 42-14	Adrian 14-6	at Alma 28-20	Kalamazoo 35-6				
HOUSTON 6-5-0			at Mem. St† F	Utah† 34-16 F	at Fla. St.† F	at Baylor 28-24 * F	Tex.A&M† 7-27 * F	at SMU 23-37 * F	Ark. † 0-34 * U	TCU † 42-14 * F	at Texas 21-35 * U		at Tex.Tech 47-7 * F	Rice† 51-21 * F
HOWARD 5-5-0			at Md.-E'strn Shore 15-0	So. Caro.St. St. 16-41	at Florida A&M † 6-28	Delaware St. 0-18	at Virginia St. 33-0	N.C. A&T 10-34	at Hampton Inst. 20-14	at Southern U.† 26-16	N.C. C'ntral 33-0	Morgan St. 24-33		

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HUMBOLDT STATE 5-4-1		Santa Clara† 5-0	at Linfield	at William-ette 24-7	Northridge St.†	at Sacramen-to St.† 21-21	Portland St.†	at Cal.-Davis 14-27	San Fran.St† 19-13	at Puget Snd 21-35	Chico St. 16-21	Hayw'd St.† 16-25		
IDAHO 3-8-0		at San Jose St.†	at Wash. St. 17-45	at Wichita St.†	N. Arizona†	at Nevada-Las Vegas 21-35	at Montana 31-20	Mont. St.† 17-6	Weber St. 27-30	at Boise St. 14-44	Idaho St.† 14-34	Fresno St.†		
IDAHO STATE 3-8-0	Utah St.† (Sept. 3) (Osaka) 7-35	at Utah †	at N. Ariz.† 7-28	P'rtland St.† 0-47		at N. Colo.	at Mont. St. 0-31	Montana† 15-17	Boise St.† 7-31	at Weber St. 21-18	at Idaho† 34-14	Nev.-Reno† 0-35		
ILLINOIS 3-8-0		Northwest'rn 7-21 * F	at Mich. 9-37 * U	Stanford 24-37 U	at Syracuse 20-30 U	at Missouri 11-7 U	Wisconsin 0-26 * U	Purdue 28-22 * U	at Indiana 21-7 * U	Mich. St. 20-49 * U	at Ohio St. 0-35 * U	at Minn. 0-21 * U		
ILLINOIS STATE 3-7-1		at W. Mich	W. Ky. †	at Kent St. 14-33	at N. Illinois † 16-7	So. Illinois 17-23	at Cn. Mich. 7-28	Ball St. 16-27	at W. Illinois 17-7	at E. Illinois 20-0	Indiana St. 10-20	E. Mich. 28-41		
INDIANA 5-5-1			at LSU † 24-21 U	Washington U	Nebraska 13-31 U	at Wisconsin 14-30 * U	N'rthwest'rn 28-3 * F	at Mich. St. 13-13 * U	Illinois 7-21 * F	at Minnesota 34-22 * U	Iowa 24-21 * F	Ohio St. 7-35 * U	at Purdue 21-10 * U	
INDIANA, PA. 4-4-1		at East Stroudsburg	at Kutztown St.	Westminster Pa. 6-21	Lock Haven 16-18	at Shippens-burg 16-14	Calif., Pa. 47-7	at Slippery Rock 10-15	Waynesburg	Edinboro St. 3-3	at Clarion St. 12-15			
INDIANA CENTRAL 6-3-1			at Saginaw Valley	Franklin, Ind. 21-53	St. Joseph's Ind. 19-21	at Butler 30-11	at Illinois Benedictine	at DePauw 31-3	Evansville 24-21	at Valpariso Ky. 35-35	at G'rgtown	Hillsdale		
INDIANA STATE 3-7-0		New Mex.St†	W. Illinois†	at E. Mich.†	at Louisville 16-27	at Ball St. 18-42	Drake 23-20	W. Tex. St. 20-31	at NE La.	So. Illinois 14-9	at Illinois St. 20-10	Wichita St. 14-41		
IOWA 4-7-0			N'rthwest'rn 24-0 * F	Iowa St. 12-10 * U	at Arizona† 7-41 U	Utah F	at Minn. 18-6 * U	at Ohio St. 6-27 * U	Purdue 21-34 * U	Michigan 6-23 * U	at Indiana 21-24 * U	Wisconsin 24-8 * U	at Mich. St. 16-22 * U	
IOWA STATE 8-3-0		at Rice† F	S. D. St. F	at Iowa 10-12 F	Drake F	Nebraska 24-21 * U	at Missouri 7-0 * F	Oklahoma 16-35 * U	at Kansas 41-3 * F	Kansas St. 22-15 * F	at Okla.St. 21-13 * F	at Colo. 7-12 * F		
ITHACA 6-3-0		at Bloomsb'g	at St. Law. 17-14	at Cort. St. 38-17	Alfred 17-8	Clairon St.	Springfield 15-28	Canisius	at Hobert 31-14	at Albany St	Towson St. 35-10			
JACKSON STATE 8-3-0	at Ala. St.† 17-6	at Tenn. St.† 7-17	Praire View† 27-2	Miss. Val.St† 37-13		Ark.-Pine Bluff 31-0	at Southern U. 38-0	at Gr'mbling 7-34	Bethune-Cookman 3-10	Tx.Southern 10-0			at Alcorn St. (Nov.23) 23-16	
JACKSON-VILLE 9-2-0		at Alabama A&M 34-0	Nichols St.† 10-7	at Tenn.-Martin 36-13	Tenn. Tech† 20-27		at Tenn.-Chattanooga 14-18		Delta St. 16-13	at Livings'tn 44-7	Troy St. 17-9	North Ala. 24-20		
JAMES MADISON 5-5-0		Wash.&Lee	Towson St. 7-13	at Hampden-Sydney 17-14	Mars Hill 7-30	at Salisbury St. 42-27	at W&M	Frostb'rg St. 18-0	at Randolph Macon 28-0	Shippens-burg 20-59	at Emory & Henry 7-3			
JOHNSON C. SMITH 3-8-0		LenoirRhyne 18-35	at Va. Union 8-25	Hampton Inst. 7-35	N.C. A&T 20-44	at So. Caro. 6-48	at Liv'ngst'n 2-14	at Shaw,NC 25-12	at Winston-Salem 0-31	at NC Cent'l 18-16	at Fayette-ville St. 13-12	at Va. St. 19-31		
KANSAS 3-7-1		Texas A&M 14-28 U	at Wash. U	UCLA 7-17 U	Miami, Fla. 7-14 U	at Colorado 17-17 * U	Oklahoma 9-24 * U	at Okla. St. 0-21 * U	Iowa St. 3-41 * U	Nebraska 7-52 * U	at Missouri 24-22 * U	at Kan. St. 29-21 * F		
KANSAS STATE 1-10-0		at Arizona U	Auburn U	at Tulsa F	Air Force U	Okla. St. 14-21 * U	at Nebraska 9-26 * U	Missouri 13-28 * U	at Okla. 7-42 * U	at Iowa St. 15-22 * U	Colorado 0-33 * U	Kansas 21-19 * U		
KENT STATE 6-5-0		at Cen.Mich. 10-49	at Ball St. 13-12	Illinois St. 33-14	Ohio 44-23	W. Mich. 20-16	at B.G. 10-14	Marshall	at Air Frce	at N. Illinois 18-21	at Miami,O. 0-25	Toledo 23-12		
KENTUCKY 10-1-0			at So. Caro† F	Baylor 6-21 F	at Maryland U	Penn. St.† 24-20 U	at Miss. *F	LSU 33-13 * U	Georgia 33-0 * F	at Va. Tech 32-0 F	Vanderbilt 28-6 * F	Florida 14-7 * F	at Tenn. 21-17 * U	
KENYON COLLEGE 4-5-0			at Capital	Wooster 6-7	Kalamazoo 3-7	at Marrettat 18-6	at Oberlin 54-7	Grove City 8-10	at Wabash 9-27	Centre 31-0	Bethany, W. Va.			

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KINGS POINT 3-6-0		Coast Guard 10-6	Albany St.	at Lafay'tte	American Int'l.	C.W. Post		at Hofstra 14-17	at Fordham	N.Y. Tech 31-13	at R.I. 3-27	Wagner 22-6		
KUTZTOWN STATE 7-2-0			Indiana,Pa.	at Shippensburg 29-27	Millersville 32-34	at East Stroudsburg 14-6	Glassboro St. 20-16	Cheyney St. 23-14	at West Chester 7-14	at Bl'msb'rg St. 14-7	Mansfield St. 35-13			
LAFAYETTE 5-6-0		Gettysburg 22-3	at Army 6-42	Kings Point 33-6	at Columbia 10-21	Fordham 41-23	at Bucknell 34-7	Penn. 7-42	at Maine 10-12	at Colgate 12-38	at Davids'n 20-18	Lehigh 17-35		
LAMAR U. 2-9-0		at NW La.† 0-43	So. Illinois† 5-9	Stephen F. Austin†	at SW La. 6-10	NE La.† 21-7	at W. Texas St.† 9-27	Texas-Arlington 7-14		at La. 6-23	McNeese St. † 35-7	at Arkansas 6-10	L.B. State† 7-21	
LAWRENCE U. 7-1-0		at N'w'strn Wis. 41-6	Milton 34-25	Lake Forest 41-6	at Beloit 55-0	Knox	Monmouth, Illinois	at Cornell, Ia.	at Coe	Ripon 0-27				
LEHIGH 9-2-0		W. Chester	at Slippery Rock	Colgate	at Penn† (Sept. 29) 19-7	Delaware	Davidson 43-7	at VMI 30-20	Bucknell 47-13	C.W. Post 36-10	at Maine	at L'f'yette 35-17		
LIVINGSTON U. 2-8-0		at Tx. A&I† 13-21	N. Ala.† 9-42	Miss. Col.† 21-16	at Troy St.† 0-10	at Tuskegee 13-10	at SE La. 3-30	Austin Peay†		Jacksonville St. 7-44	at Delta St.† 3-7	at Tenn-Martin 10-26		
LIVINGSTONE COLLEGE 4-7-0		at NorfolkSt 13-14	at Bethune-Cookman† 7-14	Md.-Estrn Shore 7-14	at Va. St. 12-20	Wnstn-Slm	Johnson C. Smith 14-2	at Fayetteville 23-12	at St. Paul's 21-17	Shaw,N.C. 27-6	Va. Union 0-38	at Del. St.		
LOCK HAVEN STATE 5-5		Wyoming	at Mansfield St.	at Bl'msb'rg St. 21-14	at Indiana, Pa. 18-16	Edinboro St. 20-14	at Clarron St. 13-20	Salisbury St.	Shippensburg 0-26	at Calif, Pa. 41-12	Slippery Rock 20-28			
LONG BEACH STATE 4-6		at SW La.†	at Boise St.†		at Pacific, Cal.† 7-22	N. Illinois†	at Utah St.	Fullerton St.† 50-31	San Diego St.† 22-33	at FresnoSt† 14-23		Drake† 27-10	at Lamar† 21-7	at San Jose St. 16-33
LSU 8-3-0			Indiana† 21-24 F	Wake F'rest† F	at Rice† 22-0 F	at Fla. † 36-14 * F	Georgia† * F	at Ky. † 13-33 * F		Miss. † 28-21 * F	Alabama (B'mh'm) 3-24 * U	Miss. St. (Jackson) 27-24 * F	Tulane† 20-17 F	Wyoming† 66-7 F
LOUISIANA TECH 8-1-2			Tenn.-Chattan'ga†	at Texas-Arlington† 34-12	McN'se St.† 14-7	at SW La.† 21-21	Ball St.†	NW La.† (Shrevep'rt) 30-8	N.Tex. St.† (Shrevep'rt) 14-41	Lamar† 23-6	Ark. St. 20-7	at NE La. 20-0		
LOUISVILLE 7-3-1		So. Dak.St.†	Maryland†	at Cinn. † 17-17	Indiana St.† 27-16	at Tulsa† 33-0	NW La.†	Boston U.†	W&M 7-21	at Wichita 51-21	Memphis St. 14-13	at So. Miss.†		
LYCOMING 6-3-0		at Lock H'vn	at Albright† 6-16	at Wilkes 7-0	Susquehanna 7-0	Del. Valley 16-8	at Juniata 10-0	at Western Md. 27-7	Upsala 7-8		Dickinson 3-7			
MAINE 3-7-0		Dayton	at Boston U 20-23	Mass. 0-28	at Cen.Conn 45-20	R.I. 0-28	at NewHmp 7-54	at Conn 9-7	Lafayette 12-10	at Delaware	Lehigh	at N'rtw'trn 20-47		
MAINE MARITIME 5-3-0				at New Haven 44-15	Bridgew'tr, Mass. 6-27	at Plymouth St. 12-6	Nichols 13-7	at Curray 0-13	Boston St. 20-0	at Mass., Maritime	Fr'm'ngh'm St. 24-7			
MANKATO STATE 6-2-0		at Wis.-Whitewater 24-14	Minn.-Morris†	Bemidyi St.†	Wis-River Falls†	at Minn.-Deluth 6-21	at Bethel, Minn. 28-14	at Moorehead St.	SW Minn.	at Michigan Tech	Winona St.	at St. Cloud St.		
MANSFIELD STATE 2-6-1		at Towson St.†	Lock Haven	St. Lawr'nc	at Bl'msb'rg St. 0-24	at Cheyney St. 7-16	Millersville 6-35	East Stroudsburg 6-51	Brockp'rt St St. 11-7		at Kutztown St. 13-35			
MARIETTA COLLEGE 3-6-0			Herdelb'rg†	at Wittenb'g	at Denison 10-7	Kenyon† 6-18	at Wooster	at M'k'g'm 14-27	Otterbein 0-15	Capital 6-7				
MARSHALL 2-9-0		at Toledo† 24-0	Appal. St. 20-28	Tenn.-Chattan'ga 20-37	at W. Caro.† 26-41	at Citadel	Miami,O. 19-29	at Kent St.	Fruman 24-42	W. Mich. 29-53	at So. Ill's.	at E. Caro†		
MARYLAND 7-4-0		Tulane F	at L'sville† F	at N. Caro. 7-16 * U	Kentucky F	N.C. St. 20-24 * F	at Syracuse 24-10 U	Wake F'rest 35-7 * F	at Duke 31-13 * F	at Penn St. 9-27 U	at Va. 28-0 * F	Clemson 21-14 * U		

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MD. EASTERN SHORE 3-8-0	Morgan St. 0-14	at N.C.A&T † 0-49	Howard 0-15	at Liv'gst'ne 14-7	at Del. St. 0-22	at Fla. A&M	at Ala. St.	at N.C.Cen. 14-6	Dis. of Colo.	So. Caro. St 7-42	at Fr'stburg			
MASSACHU-SETTS 8-2-0			Villanova	at Maine 28-0	at Harvard 17-0	Morgan St.	at Boston U 41-16	at R.I. 37-6	Conn. 10-0	Rutgers	at Holy Crss 28-6	New Hamp. 19-6	Boston Col. 7-34	
MC NEESE STATE 5-5-1		Fresno St.†	at W. Texas 20-8	at NW La.† 14-7	at La. Tech 7-14	Nicholls St.† 7-24	NE La.† 29-7	at Ark. St.† 17-14	Tenn.-Chattan'ga†		at Lamar† 7-35	Texas-Arlington† 7-24	SW La.† 9-9	
MEMPHIS STATE 6-5-0		Miss. † (Jackson) 3-7 F	Houston† U	Miss. St.† 21-13 F	at Tex.A&M U		Wichita St.† 28-14 F	So. Miss.† 42-14 F	at Tulane† 27-9 F	Vanderbilt F	at Louisville F	at N. Texas St.† 19-20 F	Cinn. F	
MIAMI, FLA. 3-8-0			at Colorado U	Fla. St.† 23-17 U	at Kansas 14-7 U	at Auburn U	at Ga. Tech 6-10 U	Utah St.† F	at Notre Dame 10-48 U	at Tulane† 10-13 F		San Diego St.† F	Syracuse† U	at Florida 14-31 U
MIAMI, O. 10-1-0		at Ball St.	Cen. Mich.	W. Mich. 14-8	at Dayton† 26-23	at N. Caro.	at Marshall 29-19	B.G. 33-13	at Toledo 27-3	at Ohio 28-24	Kent St. 25-0	Cinncinnati 12-7		
MICHIGAN 10-1-0			Illinois 37-9 * F	at Notre Dame U	Duke 21-9 F	Arizona F	Mich. St. 24-14 * F	at Wisconsin 56-0 * F	Minnesota 0-16 * F	at Iowa 23-6 * F	at N'rthw'tn 63-20 * F	Purdue 40-7 * F	at Ohio St. 14-1 * U	
MICHIGAN STATE 7-3-1			at Purdue 19-14 * F	Syracuse U	at USC† (Sept. 29) U	Notre Dame 6-16 U	at Mich. 14-24 * U	Indiana 13-13 * F	Wisconsin 9-7 * F	at Illinois 49-20 * F	Minn. 29-10 * F	at N'rthw'tn 44-3 * F	Iowa 22-16 * F	
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE 7-1-0				at Colby 56-14	Williams 27-0	Tufts 41-0	at Trinity College 20-6	Bowdoin 35-21	at Hamilton 41-18	at Union, N.Y. 31-20	Norwich 20-34			
MILLERSVILLE STATE 8-1-0		Westminster, Pa. 7-28		at Edinboro St. 24-12	at Kutzman St. 34-32	W. Chester 28-7	at Mansfield St. 35-6	at Blooms-burg St. 28-21	East. Stroudsb'rg 34-8	at Cheyney St. 48-0	Salisbury St.			
MINNESOTA 7-4-0			Toledo F	Ohio St. 7-38 * U	at UCLA† 27-13 U	Ore. St. F	Iowa 6-18 * F	at N'rthw'tn 13-7 * F	at Mich. 16-0 * U	Indiana 22-34 * F	at Mich.St. 10-29 * U	Illinois 21-0 * F	at Wisc. 13-7 * F	
MISSISSIPPI 5-6-0		Memphis St. (Jackson) 7-3 U		at Missouri F	So. Miss.† (Jackson) 19-27 F	at Georgia 13-14 * U	Kentucky * U	at So. Caro 17-10 U	at Vand't 26-14 * F	at LSU† 21-28 * U	Tulane F	at Tenn. 43-14 * U	Miss. St. (Jackson) 14-18 * F	
MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE 6-4-0		at E. Tenn. St.†	Henderson St.	at Liv'gston† 16-21	at Tenn.-Martin† 27-24	Delta St. 13-24	Ouachita Bapt. 20-8	at Nicholls St.† 0-6	SE La. 6-23	at Troy St. 17-15	N. Ala.† 28-0			
MISSISSIPPI STATE 5-6-0	W.Tx.St.† (Jackson) F	N.Tx.St.† (Irving) 17-15 F		at Memphis St.† 13-21 U	at Fla.† 22-24 * U	at So.Miss† 7-14 U	Fla. St. U		Tenn. (Memphis) *U	Alabama (B'mh'm) 7-37 * U	Auburn 27-13 * F	LSU (Jackson) 24-27 * F	Missippi (Jackson) 18-14 *U	
MISS. VALLEY STATE 5-5-0	at Bishop 27-10	at Ky. St.	at Ark.-Pine Bluff 12-9	at Jackson St.† 13-37	at Southern U.† 35-13	Langston 8-34	Grambling 21-42	at Texas Southern 33-35	Prairie View 0-3	Alcorn St. 12-10				
MISSOURI 4-7		at Notre Dame U	Alabama U	Mississippi U	at Okla. 7-11 * U	Illinois 7-11 F	Iowa St. 0-7 * U	at Kan. St. 28-13 * F	Colorado 24-14 * U	at Okla. St. 41-14 * U	Kansas 22-24 * F	at Neb. 10-21 * U		
MISSOURI-ROLLA 7-3-1	William Penn	at Mo. Val.† 33-14		Pittsburgh St 16-14	Evangel	SE Mo. 14-14	at NE Mo. 21-19	SW Mo. 17-26	at NW Mo. 27-6	at Cen.Mich	Lincoln,Mo. 14-6	at Cen. Mo. 20-14		
MONTANA 4-6-0		Puget Sound 18-17	at P'tl'ndSt† 40-25	N. Arizona 24-25	at Weber St† 23-31	at Boise St.† 17-43	Idaho 20-31	at Idaho 17-15	at Nev-LV† 13-15	Montana St. 19-24	N. Colo. 34-13	at San Jose St.†		
MONTANA STATE 6-4-0		at N. Dak. 21-7	N. Dak. St. 24-17		Boise St. 0-26	at Weber St. 27-24	Idaho St. 31-0	at Idaho† 6-17	N. Arizona 21-28	at Montana 24-19	at FresnoSt† 24-14			
MORGAN STATE 4-6-1	at Md.-East-ern Shore 14-0			at R.I.	N.C. Central 35-25	at Mass.	So. Caro.St. 13-63	Delaware St. 6-20	N.C. A&T 0-28	Va. Union 9-28	at Va. St. 19-0	at Howard 33-24		
MT. UNION COLLEGE 4-5-0			Albion 0-3	at Oberlin	Grove City 19-14	at Ohio Wesleyan 16-14	at Baldwin Wallace 12-33	Heidelberg	at Denison 21-3	at Ohio No.				

	SEPT. 2	SEPT. 9	SEPT. 16	SEPT. 23	SEPT. 30	OCT. 7	OCT. 14	OCT. 21	OCT. 28	NOV. 4	NOV. 11	NOV. 18	NOV. 25	DEC. 2
MUSKINGUM 7-2-0			at Edinboro St.	Denison 48-14	Baldwin-Wallace 21-35	at Capital 31-34	at Otterbein †	Marretta 27-14	Wittenberg 14-41	at Wooster 28-18				
NAVY 5-6-0			at Virginia F	at Conn. 38-7 F	at BC† F	at Air F'rce 10-7 F	Duke 16-28 F	W&M 42-17 F	Pitts. 17-34 U	Notre Dame 10-43 U	at Syracuse 34-45 U	at Fla. St.† U		Army (Phila.) 14-17 F
NEBRASKA 8-3-0		California F		Hawaii F	at Ind. St. 31-13 F	at Iowa St. 21-24 * F	Kansas St. 26-9 * F	at Colorado 33-15 * F	Oklahoma 31-14 * F	at Kansas 52-7 * F	Oklahoma 7-38 * U	Missouri 21-10 * F	Alabama (B'mh'm) 31-24 U	
NEVADA LAS VEGAS 9-2-0		Wash. St.† (Spokane)	Nev.-Reno† 27-12	at New		Idaho† 35-21	Hawaii†	at Colo. St.	Montana† 15-13		Wyoming†	UTEP	Fullerton ST. † 24-21	BYU† (Tokyo)
NEVADA-RENO 8-3-0		Stephen F. Austin	at Nevada-Las Vegas† 12-27	Cal.-Davis 21-37	San Fran.St 47-7	W. Wash.	at Fullerton St.†	Santa Clara 33-14	at Sacra. mento St.† 75-0	Hayward St.	So. Dak.	at Idaho St.† 35-0		
NEW HAMP-SHIRE 8-2-0		at Holy Crss 27-14	at Cen. Conn 42-7	Boston U. 26-14	at W. Chest'r 26-0	Conn. 42-7	Maine 54-7	at Amer. Int'l.	at N'rth'w't 28-13	R.I. 20-21	Springfield 52-7	at Mass 6-19		
NEW HAVEN 3-6-0			at Framing-ham St. 3-0	Maine-Maritime† 15-44	at W. Conn.	at Bridge-water, Mass. 24-7	Plymouth St.† 17-14	at Nichols 0-13	Curry† 19-21	at Bos. St. 0-6	Mass.-Maritime 3-28			
NEW MEXICO 5-7-0		at Hawaii† 35-26 F	at Wichita St.† 22-17 F	Nevada-Las Vegas† F	BYU† 19-54 * U	at Wyoming 21-23 * U	Texas Tech† 14-49 U	New Mexico St. 35-13 F	at UTEP† 33-17 * F	at Utah 41-24 * F	Colo. St. 9-14 * U	Pacific, Cal. F	at S.D. St.† * U	
NEW MEXICO STATE 4-7-0		at Ind. St.†	UTEP† 21-23	N. Tex.St.† 17-45	at So. Ill. 28-7	Texas-Arlington† 7-6	Tulsa† 24-27	at New Mex. 13-35	at Wichita St. 24-12	Drake 35-9	at Hawaii†		W. Tex.St.† (Nov. 22)	
NICHOLLS ST 4-7-0	Tenn. Tech†	NE La. † 2-19	at Jacksvle St.† 7-10	Troy St.† 6-23		at McNeese St.† 24-7	Cameron† 0-13	Miss. Col † 6-0	at NW La.† 10-6	at Tenn-Martin 0-3=1	SE La.† (New Orl.) 14-17	at Delta St† 0-14		
NORFOLK ST 4-6-1	at St. Paul's 41-6	Livingstone 14-13	Fayetteville St. 28-7	Elizabeth City 37-0	Winston-Salem 14-21	at N.C.A. A&T† 14-21	at Hampton Inst. 0-18	Virginia Union† 15-21	Bowie St.	at Virginia St. 21-21				
NORTH ALABAMA 5-5-0		at Carson-Newman†	at Livingston 42-9	SE La.† 29-7	at Delta St.† 28-21	Alabama A&M† 28-7	at Austin Peay † 6-13	Troy St† 27-34	Tenn-Martin 13-31		at Miss. Col. 0-28	at Jacksville St. 20-24		
NORTH CAROLINA 8-2-1			E. Carolina F	Maryland * F	at Pitts. U	Miami, O. F	at Wake Forest 24-3 * F	N.C. St. 27-14 * F	at S. Carol. 17-0 F	at Richmond 31-0 F	at Clemson 13-13 * P	Virginia *F	Duke 16-3 * F	
NORTH CAROLINA A&T 7-4-0	at Winston-Salem † 14-33	Md. E. Shore † 49-0	S. Carol. St. † 0-52	Bethune-Cookman† 15-20	at Johnson C. Smith † 44-20	Norfolk St.† 21-14	at Delaware	at Howard 34-10	Morgan St. 28-0		Delaware 22-7	at N.C. Central 25-6		
NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL 1-10-0		at Virginia-Union † 10-14	Winston-Salem 13-21		at Morgan St. 25-35	Elon 8-50	at Delaware St. 0-23	Md.-Eastern Shore 6-14	at S. Carol. St. 12-45	Johnson C. Smith 16-18	at Howard 0-33	N.C. A&T 6-25		
NORTH CAROLINA ST. 7-4-0		E. Carolina † 23-28 F	Syracuse† 38-0 F	W. Va.† U	at Wake Forest † 14-41 *F	at Maryland 24-20 *U		at N. C. 14-27 *U	Clemson 3-7 *U	S. C. 7-3 *U	at Penn St. 17-21 U	Duke 37-33 *F	at Virginia 14-0 *F	
NORTH TEXAS ST. 9-2-0	UTEP † 41-10	Miss. St. † (Irving) 15-17	Texas-Arl.† (Irving) 15-6	at New Mex. St. † 45-17	Okla. St. † (Irving)	at W. Texas St. † 31-20	at Texas St. †		La. Tech† (Shrevport) 41-14	So. Miss † 22-14	NE La. † 20-19	Memphis St. † 20-19		
NORTHEAST'N 3-6-1			at R.I. 21-12	C.W. Post 10-10	at Boston U. 15-37	at Sprgfld 19-26	S. Conn. 38-14	W. Chester	New Hamp. 13-28	at Bucknell	Central Conn. 12-21	Maine 47-20		
NORTHEAST LA. 2-9		at Nicholls St. † 19-2	Arkansas St. † 20-31	N. Ill. †	N W La. † 0-13	at Lamar 7-21	at McNeese St. † 7-29	Se La. 24-19	Ind. St.	at Cinn. 0-63	at N. Tx. St. †	La. Tech 0-20		
NORTHWEST'N 1-10-0		at Ill. 21-7 *U	at Iowa 0-24 * U	Wisconsin 7-19 *U	at Colo. U	Ariz. St. 3-35 U	at Ind. 3-28 *U	Minnesota 7-13 *U	at Ohio St. 15-35 * U	at Purdue 16-28 * U	Mich. 20-63 * U	Mich. St. 3-44 * U		
NORTHWEST'N ST. 6-5-0		Lamar † 43-0	at Stephen F. Austin† 20-6	McNeese St. 7-14	at NE La.† 13-0	at Ark. St. † 30-7	at La. †	La. Tech † (Shreveport) 8-30	Nicholls St.† 6-10	at Texas-Arl. † 28-24	SW La. † 20-13	SE La. † 21-38		

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NOTRE DAME 10-1-0		Missouri F		Michigan F	Purdue 31-24 F	at Mich. St. 16-6 F	Pittsburgh 19-9 F	at Air Force 49-0 F	Miami, Fla. 48-10 F	Navy (Clev.) 43-10 F	Tenn. F	at Ga. Tech 69-14 F	at USC (Nov. 24) 49-19 F	
OBERLIN 2-7-0		Case Reserve	at Ohio Northern †	Mt. Union	at Wooster		Kenyon 7-54	at Geneva	at Grove City	Wabash	at Hiram 28-27			
OCCIDENTAL 5-4-0			at U.S. Int'l 28-22	Azusa-Pacific † 14-28	San Diego† 21-13	at Cal. Lutheran 0-21	at St. Mary's Col.	at Whitties † 17-28	La Verne † 21-20	at Redlands 21-22	at Claremont Mudd 21-7	Pomano Pitzer † 28-13		
OHIO UNIVERSITY 1-10-0		E. Mich. 14-31		at Purdue 7-44	at Kent St. 23-44	Central Mich 14-31	at South Carolina	Toledo 29-31	at W. Mich. 22-28	Miami; O 24-28	at Cinn. 26-38	at Bowling Green 27-39	N. Ill. 6-20	
OHIO NORTHERN 2-7-0			Oberlin †	at Heidelb'g † 21-15	Georgetown Ky. † 34-47	at Findlay†	Ohio Weslyn 17-7	at Denison	Baldwin-Wallace	Mt Union				
OHIO ST. 9-2-0			Penn St. F	at Minn. 38-7 * F	Baylor F	SMU 35-7 F	at Purdue 46-0 * F	Iowa 27-6 *F	Northwstn. 35-15 *F	at Wisconsin 42-0 *F	Illinois 35-0 *F	at Ind. 35-7 *F	Mich. 6-14 *F	
OHIO WESLEYAN 2-6-1			Carnagie-Mellon	at Otterbern † 7-37	Wittenberg 7-35	Mt. Union 15-16	at Ohio Northern 7-17	Baldwin-Wallace 17-35	at Heidelb'g 3-0	at Denison 10-10				
OKLAHOMA 10-1-0		at Stanford F	W. Va. F	Rice F	Missouri 21-17 *F	Texas (Dallas) 6-13 U	at Kansas 24-9 *F	at Iowa St. 35-16 *F	Kans. St. 42-7 *F	at Colo. 52-14 *F	at Nebraska 38-7 *F	Oklahoma 61-28 *F		
OKLAHOMA STATE 4-7-0		at Wichita St. † F	at Florida St. † 17-25 U	Arkansas 6-28 U	N. Tx. St. † (Irving) F	at Kansas St. 21-14 *F	Colorado 13-29 *U	Kansas 21-0 F	at Nebraska 14-31 *U	Missouri 14-41 *U	Iowa St. 13-21 *U	at Oklahoma 28-61 *U		
OREGON 2-9-0		at Colorado U	USC *U	TCU † 29-24 *F	at Wisconsin 10-22 U	at Calif. 16-48 *U	BYU U	at Wash 0-54 *U	Wash. St. 20-56 *U	at UCLA 3-21 *U	Arizona *U		at Oregon St. 28-16 *U	
OREGON ST. 2-9-0		BYU † 24-19 U	at Ariz. † *U	at Tenn.† 10-41 U	Wash. † 6-14 *U	at Minn. U		at USC 10-17 *U	at Stanford 7-26 *U	at Wash. 10-24 *U	UCLA 18-48 *U	Ariz. St. 31-33 *U	Oregon 16-28 *F	
OTTERBEIN 8-1-0			at Dayton†	Ohio—Wesleyan † 37-7	Heidelberg†	at Wooster	Muskingum†	at Capital 24-15	at Marretta 15-0	Wittenberg†				
PACIFIC CALIF. 6-5-0		at Arizona St. †	Cal. Davis†	at Calif.	Long Bch. St. † 22-7	Fullerton St. † 49-7	at Fresno St. † 10-24	at San Diego St. † 7-29	at Hawaii † 37-7	at Utah St.	San Jose St. 24-7	at New Mex.	Colorado St. (Nov.23) 3-20	
PENN ST. 10-1-0		Rutgers 45-7 F	at Ohio St. U	SMU F	TCU F	at Ky. † 20-24 F		Syracuse 31-24 F	at W. Va. 6-49-28 F	Maryland 27-9 F	N.C. St. 21-17 F	Temple 44-7 F	Pitts. 15-13 F	
PENN. 5-4-0				at D'rtmth 7-3 *U	Lehigh † (5:29) 7-19 F	Columbia 18-30 *F	at Brown 14-7 *U	at Lafayette 42-7 F	Yale 21-27 *U	at Princeton 21-10 *U	Harvard 15-34 *U	at Cornell 17-7 *U		
PITTSBURGH 8-2-1			at Tulane† 48-0 F	Temple 76-0 F	N.C. F	at Boston Col. 45-7 F	at Notre D. 9-19 U	Fla. St. F	at Navy 34-17 F	at Syracuse 28-21 F	W. Va. 44-3 F	Army 52-26 F	at Penn St. 13-15 U	
POMONA—PITZER -0-8-0			at Barstow†	at San Diego † 0-34	Edwards AFB †	at St. Mary's Col. 6-45		LaVerne † 20-42	Redlands 10-49	at Claremont Mudd 0-13	Whitter 6-53	at Occident' † 13-28		
PORTLAND ST. 7-4-0		N. Ariz.†	Mont. † 25-40	at Idaho St.† 47-0	Sacramento St. †	at Cal Poly SLO † 22-29	at Humboldt St. †	Simon Fraser 55-13	at Puget Sound 63-9	at North'dge St. †	San Fran. St. †	S. Dakota ST.		
PRAIRIE VIEW A & M 3-8-0		at E. Tx. St† 10-38	at Jackson St.† 2-27	at Southern U.† 6-46	Grambling 7-70	SW Texas 19-7	Tex. Lutheran 14-19	at Bishop 39-7	at Miss. Valley St. 3-0	Ark.-Pine Bluff 20-33	Alcorn St. 12-31	at Tex.-Southern† 28-29		
PRINCETON 3-6-0				at Cornell 34-0 *F	Rutgers (E.Ruth'fd) 6-10 U	Brown 7-10 *P	at Columbia 28-7 *F	Colgate 13-31 F	Harvard 20-7 *F	Penn. 10-21 *F	at Yale 8-44 *U	Dartmouth 11-14 *U		
PURDUE 5-6-0			Michigan St. 14-19 *U	Ohio 44-7 F	at Notre Dame 24-31 U	Wake Forest 26-17 F	Ohio St. 0-46 *U	at Illinois 22-29 *F	at Iowa 34-21 *F	N'thwestern 28-16 *F	at Wisconsin 22-0 *U	at Michigan 7-40 *U	Indiana 10-21 *F	

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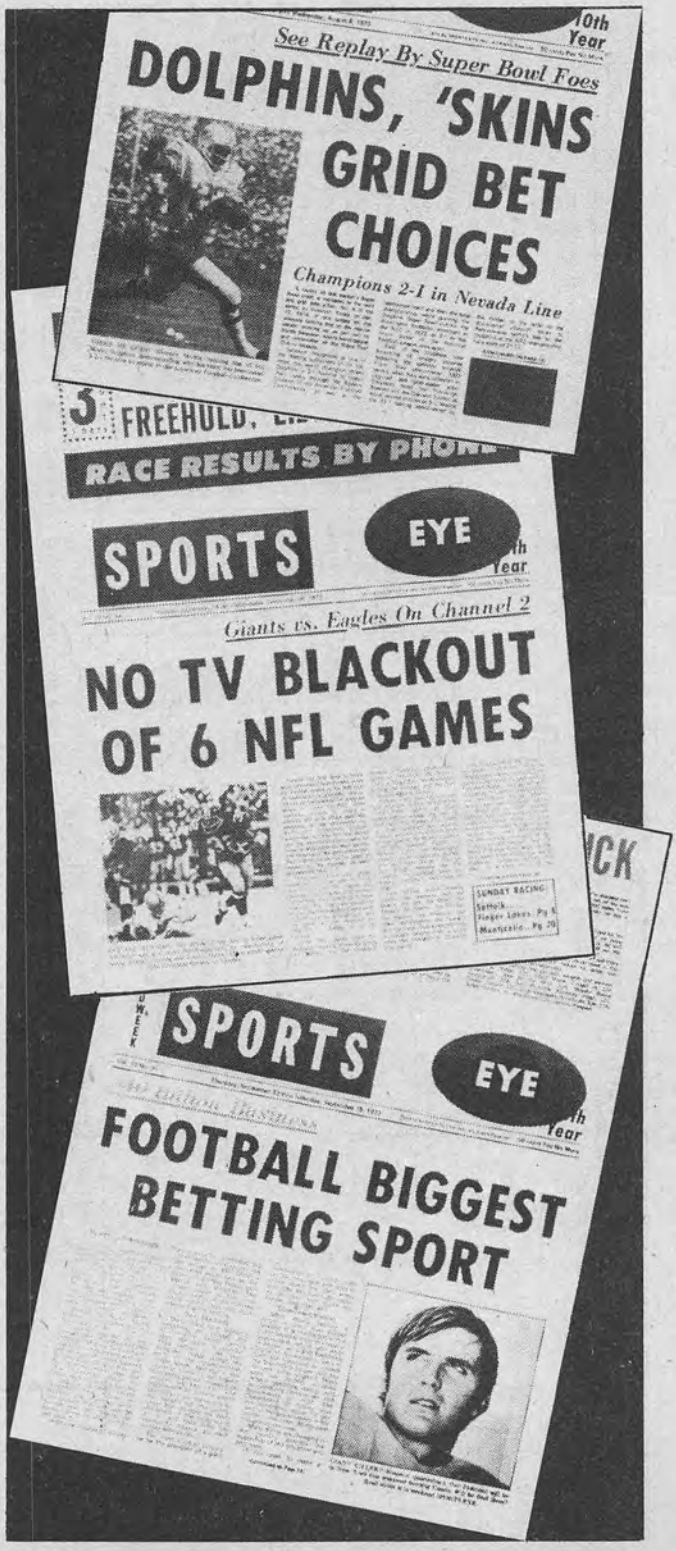
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REDLANDS 8-1-0			San Diego† 3-0	Cal Lutheran† 3-27	at U.S. International 30-6		at Azusa-Pacific 38-10	Claremont Mudd † 35-10	at Pomona Pitzer 49-10	Occidental† 22-21	at Laverne 32-17	Whittier 20-14		
RHODE ISLAND 6-5-0		at Delaware	N'thwestern 12-21	Morgan St.	at Brown 10-28	at Marne 28-0		Mass'etts 6-37	Boston U 31-22	at New Hampshire 21-20	Kings Point 27-3	at Conn. 14-7		
RICE 1-10-0		Iowa St.† U	Texas† 15-72 *U	at Oklahoma	LSU† 0-77 U		at TCU 15-35 *F	Texas Tech† 7-42 *U	at Texas A & M 14-28 *U	at Arkansas 7-30 *U	SMU 24-41 *U	Baylor 14-24 *U		at Houston† 21-51 *U
RICHMOND 3-8-0	So. Miss.	at West Va. 0-36	at Wisconsin	at Appal'n St. 21-13	Cincinnati	at Villanova	VMI 0-25	E. Carolina (Norfolk) 14-35		N. Carolina 0-31	at Tenn.-Chattanooga	William & Mary 13-27		
ROCHESTER 6-3-0		at Brockport St.	Canisius 24-7	Fordham	Washington, Mo. 10-12	at Hobart 29-15		Wagner 35-0	at Buffalo	Alfred 24-8	at St. Lawrence 6-23			
RUTGERS 8-3-0		at Penn St. 7-45		at Bucknell 36-14	Princeton (E.Ruth'f'd) 10-6	at Yale	Conn. 42-18	Villanova	at Columbia	at Mass.	Temple 14-24	at Holy Cross	Colgate 0-23	
SACRAMENTO ST. 0-10-1			at Cal Poly SLO† 7-31	at Cal Poly Pomona†	at Portland St.	Humboldt St.† 21-21	Ca.-Davis† 0-28	at San Francisco St. 7-19	Nevada-Reno† 0-75	Chico St.† 7-36	at Haywood St. 14-27	at N'thridge St.† 0-36		
ST. MARY'S, CAL. 4-5-0			Whittier 14-21	at Clarem't-Mudd 16-6	at Haywood St. 12-31	Pomona-Pitzer 45-6	Occidental	at U.S. Internation'l 19-8	at Azusa-Pacific 6-13	Cal. Luth'n	at San Diego Diego 24-21	Santa Clara		
ST. PAUL'S 1-10-0	Norfolk St. 0-41	at Bowie St. 6-8	at Brdgwater Va. 18-0	Virginia St. 6-12	at Virginia Union 14-40	Fayetteville St. 2-24	at Shaw, N.C.	at Liberty Bupt. 9-26	Livingstone 17-21	at Hampton Inst. 14-38	at Elizabeth City 19-21			
SAN FRAN-CISCO ST. 5-5-0		Northridge St. 10-17	at Cal Poly Pomona 21-18		at Nevada-Reno 7-47	Chico St. 0-32	at Haywood St. 16-10	Sacramento St. 19-7	at Humbolt St.† 13-19	Cal.-Davis 7-21	at Portland St.†	Cal. Lutheran		
SAN JOSE ST. 4-7-0		Idaho†	at Stanford 26-31	at Colorado	Santa Clara† 44-22	at Hawaii† 24-14	at Boise St.†	Fresno St.† 24-45	at Utah St. 10-22	Fullerton St.† 23-12	at Pacific, Cal. 7-24	Montana†		Long Beach St. 33-16
SETON HALL 3-5-0			at Hofstra 6-28	Cheyney St.†	Fordham† 10-21	Montclair St (E.Rutherfd) 0-6	at St. Peter's 26-0	Pace†	at Wagner 0-20	Upsula (E.Ruth'frd) 19-11	Coast Guard			
SHIPPENSBURG ST. 6-4-0		at Shepard	Bloomburg St. 3-6	Kutztown St. 27-29	at Slippery Rock 20-12	Indiana,Pa. 14-16	at Edinboro St. 17-7	Clarion St. 6-26	at Lock Haven 26-0	at James Madison 39-20	California, Pa. 42-14			
SLIPPERY ROCK ST. 4-4-1			Lehigh	Central Conn.	Shippensb'g 12-20	at California, Pa. 35-7	at Ashland 14-35	Indiana, Pa. 15-10	at Edinboro St. 13-25	Clarion St. 14-14	at Lock Haven 28-20			
SOUTH CAROLINA 5-7		Furman† F	Kentucky† U	at Duke 21-25 U	Georgia† 13-15 F	at Georgia Tech 17-0 F	Ohio F	Mississippi 10-17 F	N. Carolina 0-17 U	at N.C. St. 3-7 U	Wake Forest 24-14 F		at Clemson 27-31 U	
SOUTH CAROLINA ST. 8-1-1	Virginia St.†	at Delaware St.† 21-0	at N.C. A & T† 52-0	at Howard 41-16	Alcorn St. 31-7	Johnson C. Smith 48-16	at Morgan St. 63-13	Newberry 21-21	N.C. Central Central 45-12	at Md.-Eastern Shr. 42-7	at Gramb-			
S.E. LOUISIANA	S.W. Texas†		Sam Houston St.† 20-0	at N. Alabama† 7-29		Troy St.† 15-17	Livington 30-3	at N.E. Louisiana† 19-24	Miss. Coll. 23-6	Delta St.† 10-7	McNicholls St.† 17-14	at N.W. Louisiana† 38-21		
SO. CALIFORN-IA 8-5		Texas Tech F	at Oregon 33-15 *F	at Alabama† 20-21 U	Michigan St.† (Sep.29) F		at Arizona St.† *F	Oregon St. 17-10 *F	California 14-17 8F	at Stanford 49-0 *F	Washington 10-28 *F	at UCLA 29-27 *U	NotreDame (Nov.24) 19-49 U	at Hawaii F
SO. CONNECTI-CUT 4-6-0			American Int. 11-13	at Albany St. 3-18	at Springfld 20-24	West. Conn.	at N'eastern 14-38	at Coast Guard 19-14	Montclair St. 0-7	Norwich	at Cortland St. 37-0	Central Conn. 19-21		
SO. ILLINOIS 3-8-0		at Drake 9-13	at Lamar† 9-5	W. Texas St. 9-28	N. Mexico St. 7-29	at Illinois St. 23-17	Atkansas St. 6-21	at Wichita St.	N. Illinois 0-28	at Indiana St. 9-14	Marshall	at SW Louisiana 0-24		
SMU 4-7-0		TCU† 45-21 *F	at Florida U	at Penn St. St. U		at Ohio St. 7-35 U	at Baylor 6-9 *U	Houston 37-23 *U	at Texas 14-30 *U	Texas A&M 21-38 *U	at Rice 41-24 *F	at Texas Tech 7-45 *U	Arkansas 7-47 *U	

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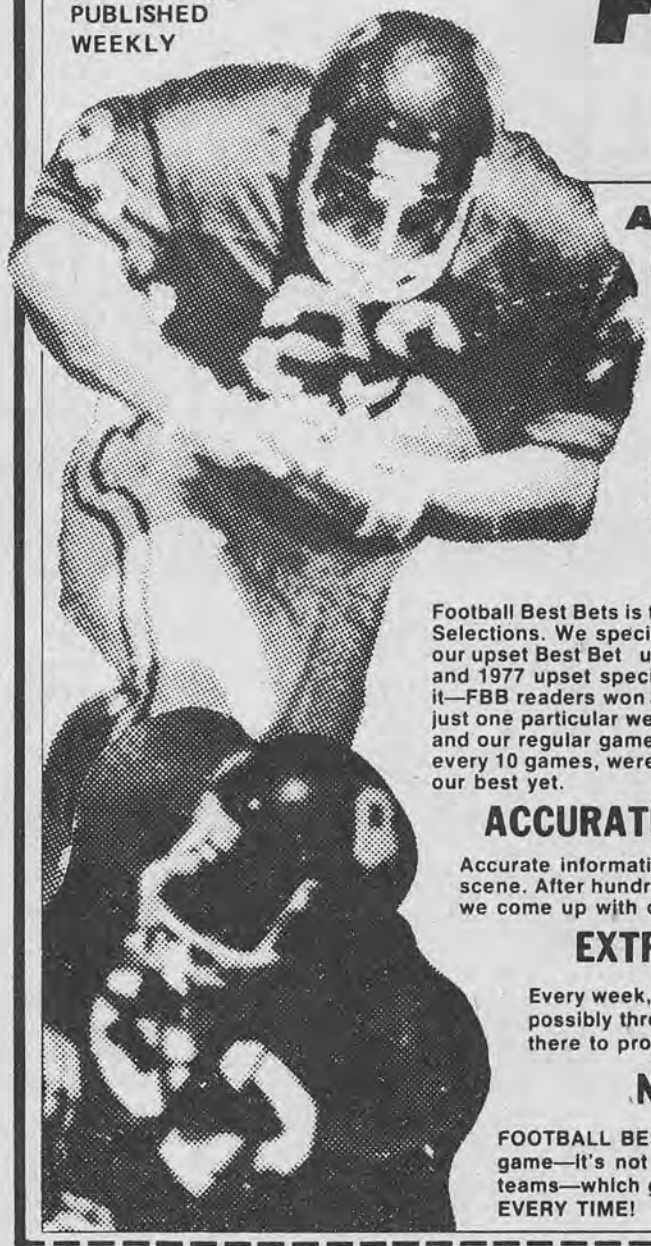

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SO. MISS 6-6-0	at Richmond	at Arkansas St.† 10-14	at Cincinnati † 6-17		at Mississippi † 27-19	Miss St.† 14-7	E. Carolina†	at Memphis St.† 14-42	Florida St. 6-35	at N. Texas St.† 14-27	Bowling Green†	Louisville†		
SOUTHERN U. 3-7-1		at Tuskagree 13-7	at Tex. Southern† 14-14	Prairie View† 46-6	Miss. Valley St.† 13-35	Alabama St.	Jackson St.! 0-38	Alcorn St. 0-23	at Tenn. St. 7-15	Howard† 16-26	Florida A & M† 6-19		Grambling 20-55	
S.W. LOUISIANA 6-4-2	Long Beach	at Tulsa† 48-21	E. Caro. † 9-7	Lamar† 10-6	La. Tech † 21-21	at Texas-Arlington† 30-20		Cincinnati†	Ark. St. † 15-17	at NW La.† 13-20	So. Ill. † 24-0	at McNeese St.† 9-9		
STANFORD 8-3-0		Oklahoma U	San Jose St. 31-26 F	at Illinois 37-24 F	Tulane 21-17 F	at UCLA † 32-28 * U	Washington 21-45 * U	at Wash. St. 31-29 * F	Oregon St. 26-7 * F	USC 0-49 * U	at Ariz. St.† * UE	at California 21-3 * U		
SUSQUEHANNA 2-7-0			at John Hopkins 20-12	Upsala 0-16	at Lycoming 0-7	Juniata 0-20	at Albright 7-34	at Deleware Valley 28-7	at Lebanon Valley	Mulhenberg 8-29	Wilkes 7-14			
SYRACUSE 6-5-0		Florida St. U	at N. Carolina St. † 0-38 U	at Michigan St. U	Illinois 30-20 F	at W.Virginia 28-9 F	Maryland 10-24 F	at Penn St. 24-31 U		Pittsburgh 21-28 U	Navy 45-34 U	at Bost. College 20-3 F	at Miami † F	
TEMPLE 5-5-1			at Drake 42-0	at Pittsburgh 0-76	Deleware † 6-3	at William & Mary	Cincinnati† 17-17	W.Virginia 16-38	Bost. Coll	at Akron †	at Rutgers 24-14	Penn St. 7-44	Villanova 38-15	
TENNESSEE 4-7-0			UCLA † U	Oregon St.† 41-10 F	Auburn 12-14 * F	Army F		Alabama 10-24 * U	Miss. St. * F	Duke U	at Notre Dame U	Mississippi 14-43 *F	Kentucky 17-21 *F	at Vand't 42-7 *F
TENN-CHATTANOOGA 9-1-1		West Ky. 27-3	at Louisiana Tech †	at Marshall 37-20	at Middle Tenn † 38-7	Appalachian St. † 14-7	Jacksonville St. † 18-14	at Furman† 7-17	at McNeese St. † 21-10	W.Carolina†	Richmond†	at Tenn.St† 14-14		
TENN ST. 8-1-1	Middle Tenn. † 27-0	Jackson St.† 17-7	Alabama A&M † 23-10	at Tex. So.† 23-7	at Central St 1-0	at Grambling 26-8		at Florida A&M † 28-31	Southern U 15-7			Tenn-Chattanooga † 14-14		
TEXAS 11-0-0			at Rice † 72-15 * F	Wyoming † F	at Texas Tech † 26-6 * F	Oklahoma 13-6 F	N. Texas St. F	Arkansas 13-9 * F	SMU 30-14 * F		Houston 35-21 * F	at TCU 44-14 * F	at Baylor 29-7 * F	Texas A&M 57-28 * F
TEX-ARLINGTON 5-6-0	at Drake	W. Tex. St.† 17-13	N. Tex. St.† 6-15	Louisiana Tech † 12-34	at E.Car. †	at New Mexi-St. † 6-7	SW Louis.† 20-30	at Lamar 14-7	Arkansas St. † 44-14	NW Louis.† 24-28		at McNeese St. † 24-7		
UTEP 1-10-0	at N. Texas St. † 10-41 U	Air Force† U	at New Mex-St. † 23-21 U	San Diego St. † 7-49 * U	at Arizona St. † 3-66 U	at Colorado St. 31-40 * U		at BYU - 19-68 * U	New Mex.† 17-33 * U	at Hawaii † U	Utah † 17-29 * U	at UNLV	Wyoming † 17-27 * U	
TEXAS A&M 8-3-0		at Kansas 28-14 F		at Boston College † F	Memphis St F	Texas Tech 33-17 * F	at Houston† 27-7 * U	Baylor 38-31 * F	Rice 28-14 I F	at SMU 38-21 * F		at Arkansas† 20-26 * U	TCU 52-23 * F	at Texas 28-57 * U
TCU 2-9-0		at SMU † 21-45 * U		at Oregon † 24-29 U	at Penn St. U	at Ark. † 6-42 * U	Rice 35-15 * F	at Tulane† * U	Baylor 9-48 * U	at Houston† 14-42 * U	Texas Tech 17-49 * U	Texas 14-44 * U	at Tex.A&M 23-52 * U	
TEXAS SO. 6-4-1		at Bethune-Cookman † 14-0	Southern U† 14-14	Tenn. St. † 7-23	at Texas A&I † 13-28	at Alcorn St 37-14	Bishop 44-0	Miss. Valley St. † 35-33	Grambling† 14-28	at Jackson St. 0-10	at Langston 85-13	Prairie Vw† 29-28		
TEXAS TECH. 7-4-0		at USC U		Arizona † 32-25 F	Texas † 0-26 * U	at Tex. A&M 17-33 * U	at New. Mexico † 49-14 F	at Rice 42-7 * F		Baylor 17-7 * F	at TCU 49-17 8 F	SMU 45-7 * F	Houston 7-45 * U	at Arkansas 14-17 * U
TOLEDO 2-9-0		Marshall † 0-24	at Minnesota	at Ball St. 3-43	E.Michigan† 7-17	Bowling Green † 13-21	at W.Mich. 7-28	at Ohio 31-29	Miami O 3-27	at Central Michigan 0-44	No. Illinois 27-9	at Kent St. 12-23		
TRINITY COL. 3-5-0				at Bowdoin 21-7	Bates 14-7	at Williams 0-28	Middlebury 6-20	Colby 24-23	at Coast Guard 14-45	Amherst 14-49	at Wesleyan 12-43			
TRINITY 9-2-0		McMurry† 28-18	at Austin 21-16	Sul Ross † 21-14	at Tarleton St. † 13-17		at McMurry† 21-14	Austin †	at Sul Ross†	Tarleton St†				
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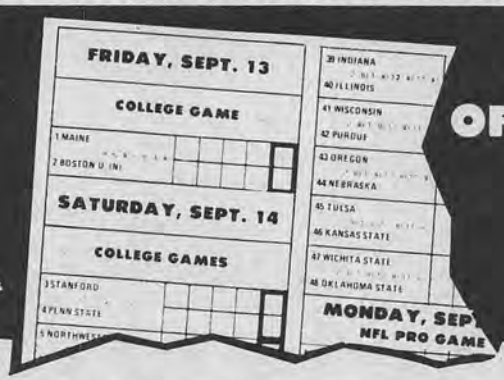

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TUFTS 3-5-0				Wesleyan 9-18	at Hamilton 30-20	at Middl'bry 0-41	Norwich 17-21	Williams 9-7	at Amherst 20-42	at Colby 17-13	Bates 16-27			
TULANE 3-8-0		at Maryland U	Pittsburgh† 0-48 U	at Georgia Tech 14-38 U	at Stanford 17-21 U	at Vanderbilt 36-7 U	Boston Coll† 28-30 U	TCU † F	Memphis St. † 9-27 U	Miami † 13-10 U	at Mississipp U		at LSU † 17-20 U	
TULSA 3-8-0	Arkansas St†	at Virginia Tech	S.W.Louis.† 21-48	Kansas St.	at Arkansas 3-37	Louisville† 0-33	at N.Mex. St. † 27-24	at Cincinnati † 0-28	Drake 33-23	W.Texas St. 21-57	at Wichita St. 26-38			
UCLA 7-4-0		at Washington 20-12 * U	at Tennessee † F	at Kansas 17-7 F	Minnesota† 13-27 F	Stanford† 28-32 * F	Washington St.† 27-16 * F	at California 0-27 * F	Arizona† 21-3 * F	Oregon 78-18 * F	at Oregon St. 27-29 * F	USC		
UTAH 3-8-0		Idaho St.† F		at Houston† 16-34 U	Colorado St. † 3-44 * U	at Iowa U	Weber St.† F	at Wyoming 23-13 * U		N.Mexico 24-41 F	at UTEP † 29-17 *F	BYU 8-38 * U	at Utah St. 20-0 F	at San Diego St.† * U
UTAH ST. 4-7-0	Idaho St.† (Sept.3) 35-7		at Colorado St. 10-13	Fresno St.	at Wyoming 32-31	at BYU 6-65	Long Beach St.	at Miami†	San Jose St. 22-10	Pacific	Weber St. 23-14		Utah 0-20	
VANDERBILT 2-9-0			at Arkansas† U	Furman† F	at Alabama 12-24 * U	Tulane 7-36 F	Auburn * U	at Georgia 13-24 * U	Mississippi 14-26 * U	at Memphis St. U	at Kentucky 6-28 * U	Air Force 28-34 F		Tennessee 7-42 * U
VILLANOVA 4-7-0		Bowling Green	at Mass.	William & Mary 8-28	at Clemson	Richmond	Colgate	at Rutgers	at Youngt'n St.† 10-13	Boston Coll. 0-17	at Delaware 33-16		at Temple 15-38	
VIRGINIA 1-9-1		at Wake Forest† 12-10 * U	Navy U	at Army U	VMI 6-30 U	at Duke 7-31 * U	Clemson 0-31 * U	Virginia Tech 14-14 U		at W.Virginia 0-13 U	Maryland 0-28 * U	at N.Carolina 14-35 * U	N.Carolina St. 0-14 * U	
VMI 7-4-0		at William & Mary 23-13	Bucknell	at Citadel† 19-3	at Virginia 30-6	E.Carolina 13-14	at Richmond 25-0	Lehigh 20-30	W.Carolina	at Georgia	Appalachian St.	at Virginia Tech. 7-27		
VIRGINIA ST. 7-3-1	at S.Carolina St.†		at Elizabeth City 31-12	at St.Paul's 12-6	Livingstone 20-12	at Shaw 52-6	Howard 0-33	Hampton Inst. 45-22	at Virginia Union 14-26	Norfolk St. 21-21	Morgan St. 0-19	Johnson C.Smith 31-19		
VIRGINIA TECH 3-7-1		Tulsa F	at Wake Forest 28-10 F	at Auburn† U	William & Mary 17-8 F	at Clemson 13-31 U	W.Virginia 14-20 U	at Virginia 14-14 F	at Alabama U	Kentucky 0-32 U	at Florida St.† 21-23 U	VMI 27-7 F		
VIRGINIA UNION 10-1-0		N.C.Central† 14-10	Johnson C. Smith† 25-8	at Winston-Salem† 31-39	St.Paul's 40-14	at Elizabeth City 21-6		at Norfolk St.† 21-15	Virginia St. 26-14	at Morgan St. 28-9	at Livings'tne 38-0	Hampton Inst. 55-16		
WAKE FOREST 1-10-0		Virginia† 10-12 * F	Virginia Tech† 10-28 U	at LSU† U	N.Carolina St.† 14-41 * U	at Purdue 17-26 U	N.Carolina 3-24 * U	at Maryland 7-35 * U	at Auburn U	Clemson 0-26 * U	at Duke 14-38 * U	at S.Carolina 14-24 U		
WASHINGTON 7-4-0		UCLA 12-20 * F	Kansas F	at Indiana F	at Oregon St.† 14-6 * F	Alabama U	at Stanford 45-21 * F	Oregon 54-0 * F	Arizona St. * F	Arizona * F	at USC 28-10 * U		Washington St. 35-15 * F	
WASHINGTON ST. 6-5-0		UNLV† F	Idaho 45-17 F	Arizona St. * F	at Army F		at UCLA† 16-27 * U	Stanford 29-31 * U	at Oregon 56-20 * F	Oregon St. 24-10 * F	at California 17-10 * U	at Arizona† *	Washington 15-35 * U	
WAYNE ST. 7-4-0		at Saginaw Valley 38-7	Youngtown St. 10-31	at Akron† 14-24	Ferris St. 35-0	at Hillsdale 6-7	Evansville 50-0		Eastern Ill. 24-14	at Northw'd Michigan 13-0	at Grand Valley St. 3-6			
WEBER ST. 4-6-0		N.Dakota	at Fresno St.†	Northern Indiana†	Montana† 31-23	Montana St. † 24-27	at Utah†	at Boise St.† 9-19	at Idaho 30-27	Idaho St. 18-21	at Utah St. 14-23	at N.Ariz.† 10-36		
WESLEYAN 6-2-0				at Tufts 18-9	Colby 21-7	at Coast Guard 24-7	WPI 21-13	Amherst 14-16	at Bowdoin 38-14	at Williams 7-13	Trinity 43-12			
W.TEXAS ST. 6-4-1	at Miss. St.†	at Texas—Arlington† 13-17	McNeese St. † 8-20	at So.Ill. 28-9	Wichita St.† 10-14	N.Texas St.† 20-31	Lamar† 27-9	at Indiana St. 31-20		at Tulsa 57-21	at Drake 31-7	N.Mex.St.† (Nov.22) 17-14		
W.VIRGINIA 5-6-0		Richmond 36-0 F	at Oklahoma U	at N.C.St.† U	California U	Syracuse 9-28 U	at Vir Tech 20-14 F	at Temple 38-16 F	Penn St. 28-49 U	Virginia 13-0 F	at Pittsburgh 3-44 U	at Colo.St. F		

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W.CAROLINA 6-4-1	at E.Carolina †	at Tenn.Tech † 21-41	at E.Tenn. St.† 35-0	Elon†	Marshall† 41-26		Citadel 0-20	at Wofford† 41-6	at VMI	at Tenn-Chat † 10-21	Furman 24-24	at Appal'chn St. 44-14		
W.MICHIGAN 4-7-0		Illinois St.	at N.Ill.† 49-21	at Miami(O.) 8-14	Bowling Green 14-34	at Kent St. 16-20	Toledo 28-7	E.Michigan	Ohio 28-22	at Marshall 53-29	at Ball St. 25-29	Central Michigan 23-28		
WHITTIER 8-2-0			at St. Mary's 21-14	LaVerne 19-3	Azusa-P'fic† 9-14	at San Diego † 16-12	U.S. Int'nl † 26-23	Occidental† 28-17	Claremont-Mudd† 35-0	at LaVerne 13-0	at Pomona-Pitzer 53-6	at Redlands† 14-20		
WICHITA ST. 5-6-0		Oklahoma St.†	N.Mexico † 17-22	Idaho †	at W.Texas St.† 14-10	at Drake 47-17	at Memphis St.† 14-28	So.Illinois	N.Mexico St 12-24	Louisville 21-51	Tulsa 38-26	at Indiana St. 41-14		
WILLIAM & MARY 6-5-0		VMI 13-23 F	at Conn. U		at Virginia Tech 8-17 U	Temple F	Jms.Md'son F	at Navy 17-42 U	at Lousiville 21-7 U	Citadel 14-13 F	at E.Carolina 21-17 U	at Richmond 29-13 F		
WILLIAMS 5-3-0				Hamilton 21-18	at Middl'bry 0-27	Trinity 28-0	at Bowdoin 21-23	at Tufts 7-9	Union 45-22	Wesleyan 13-7	at Amherst 21-13			
WINSTON—SALEM 11-0-0	N.C.A&T † 33-14	Hampton Inst.† 34-6	at N.C.Cent. 21-13	Virginia Union† 39-31	at Norfolk St. 21-14	at Livingstone 17-9	Fayetville St 40-18	at Elizabeth City 23-9	Johnson Smith 31-0		at Shaw 46-6			
WISCONSIN 5-6-0			Richmond F	at N'thwstn 19-7 * F	Oregon 22-10 F	Indiana 30-14 * F	at Illinois 26-0 * F	Michigan 0-56 * U	at Michigan St. 7-9 * U	Ohio St. 0-42 * U	Purdue 0-22 * F	at Iowa 8-24 * F	Minnesota 7-13 * U	
WITTENBERG 9-0-0			Valparaiso	Marietta	at Ohio—Wesleyan 35-7	at Heidelb'g† 31-6	Capital 34-3	Wooster 28-16	at Musk'gm 41-14	at Otterbein †				
WOOSTER 6-3-0			Adrian	at Kenyon 7-6	Oberlin	Otterbein	Marietta	at Wittenb'g 16-28	at Capital 20-13	Muskingum 18-28				
WYOMING 4-6-1			S.Dakota F	at Texas† U	Utah St. 31-32 * F	N.Mexico 23-21 * F	San Diego St. * U	Utah 13-23 * F	at Colorado St. 29-13 * U	at BYU * U	at UNLV† F	at Hawaii† F	at UTEP† * F	at LSU† U
YALE 7-2-0				at Brown 10-9 * U	Conn. 23-12 F	Rutgers F	at Dartm'th 0-3 * F	Columbia 42-20 * F	at Penn 27-21 * F	Cornell 28-0 * F	Princeton 44-8 * F	at Harvard * U		
YOUNGTOWN 7-3-0		at N. Indiana †	at Wayne St. 31-10	at Ashland†	Saginaw Val. 22-12	Eastern Ill.† 52-22	at Central St 34-6	Akron 28-10	Villanova† 13-10	N.Michigan†	at Western Ill. 37-16			

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( ) Seeing is believing. Enclosed is no fee. Send me your special telephone number to obtain free at no obligation whatsoever your College & Pro releases and best bets for August, September and October.

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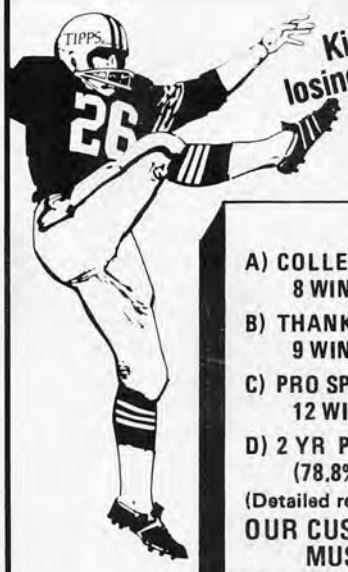

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8 WINS 3 LOSSES (72.7%)

B) THANKSGIVING WEEKEND
9 WINS 1 LOSS (90%)

C) PRO SPECIALS
12 WINS 6 LOSSES (66.7%)

D) 2 YR PRO SPEC RECORD 26 – 7
(78.8%)

(Detailed record available upon request)

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ALL COLLEGE & PRO SPECIALS
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ALL SPECIALS
NEWSLETTER - 17 WKS.
BOWLS & PRO PLAYOFFS

SERVICE NO. 4 — $55.00
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EMPHASIS ON 3 COLLEGE & 3 PRO GAMES
PRIOR RESULTS RANGE IN 70% WINNING AREA

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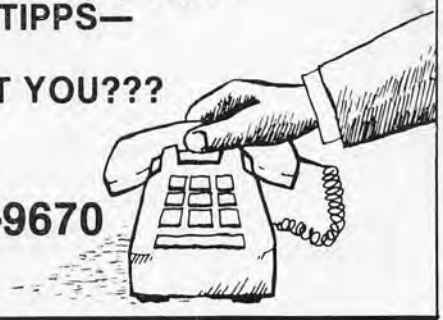

YES! I want the following (Check your choice)

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OR

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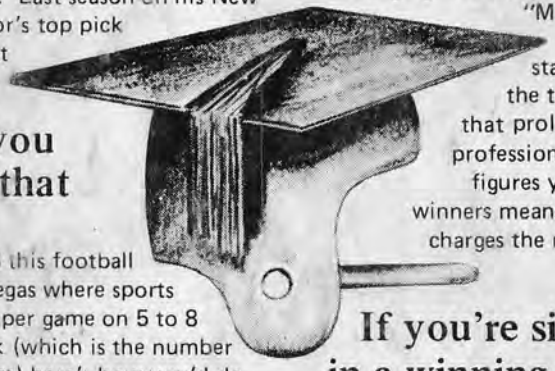
The Professor charges $375 for his sheet!

But the Professor sends his sheets out first... then bills you later, and you throw away the bill if he doesn't hit 66% against the spread!

You've read about the Professor!

He's Ed Horowitz, former practicing certified public accountant and college professor, and the hottest football handicapper in the country. Over the past five years his selections have beaten the point spread from 66% to 71% of the time. Last season on his New York radio show, the Professor's top pick of the week beat the spread at a 72% rate!



He'll Guarantee you 66%! What does that mean to you?

It means BIG, BIG, PROFITS this football season! If you went to Las Vegas where sports betting is legal, and bet $100 per game on 5 to 8 college or pro games per week (which is the number of games the Professor releases) here's how you'd do with only 66% winners:

Collect on 66 winners @ $100	$6,600
Pay on 34 losers @ $110	3,740
Net profit for the season	$2,860

Why does the Professor charge more for his newsletter than anyone else?

Thumb through this magazine. There are at least 50 ads offering sheets at season prices ranging from $25 to $75. Most of them also claim "MIRACLE" winning percentages of 75% to 90%. That's standard operating procedure for the typical, fast-buck, rip-off artists that proliferate the sports handicapping profession. Forget it! You work out the figures yourself. See what 66% to 71% winners means to your wallet. The Professor charges the most because only he performs while others promise!

If you're sincerely interested in a winning season you've got to give the Professor a shot!

- The Professor mails out his sheet weekly each Tuesday from late August thru the Super Bowl.
- You may call our offices in New York for the Professor's picks if your sheet is not received by Thursday morning.

What other sheet lets you play after their results are in?

The Professor knows what's important to you. You're entitled to several winning weeks before you're asked to come up with the big money the Professor charges. Pay us out of your profits! Here's how the payment plan works.

1. Simply fill-in the coupon and send it along with your fully-refundable $75 deposit.
2. During October, you will be billed for $150. If you're not ecstatic with the Professor's results, throw the bill away!
3. During November, you will receive a final bill for $150. Again, if your pockets aren't full, throw the bill away.

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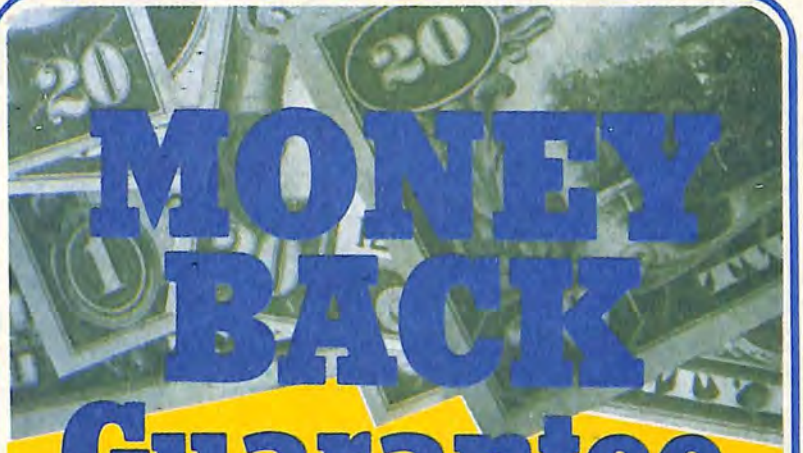

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